MIDDLETON PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL



'Excellence, Truth & Grace'

HOW CAN I HELP WITH MATHEMATICS IN EYFS?



EYFS Mathematicians

Mathematics is an essential life skill. Developed across centuries, mathematics is key feature of many parts of the wider world from history to science, engineering to hospitality, retail and beyond. Most forms of employment

require the use of mathematics in some form and it is necessary for financial literacy. With this in mind, it is essential that children are engaged in their mathematics learning and are able to see how it fits into the wider world and our every day lives.

In EYFS, much of our learning takes place through play and is as practical as possible. Play is essential for children's development across all areas. Play builds on children's confidence as they learn to explore, to relate to others around them and develop relationships, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

What can families do?

Maths skills can be developed at home by involving them in everyday activities such as baking, looking at the best supermarket deals or sharing out sweets equally. This also develops their problem solving and reasoning skills! Don't underestimate yourself, or the power you have as a parent getting involved in your child's learning.

- A positive mindset is EVERYTHING! You may find yourself from time to time saying 'I was never good at Maths.' Children will pick up and mirror this energy. We would advise parents and carers to use positive language such as 'It's fine to make mistakes, we all do' or 'It's ok that you find this tricky, let's look through it together.' Positivity can go a long way to improving their attitude towards Maths.

-Use Maths talk every day. This could be as simple as asking your child to count the chicken nuggets up to 10! Then helping to share them out equally. You could further develop their knowledge by asking questions such as: What if I had double this amount? What if you ate 3 of those nuggets? How many would be remaining? Physical objects in every day life really help this process.

-Develop their memory and visualisation skills. It has been found that the younger generation have little need to memorise things such as phone numbers. Start off with something simple like memorising your house number and play games to help develop their memory skills, such as finding the matching pairs. This provides the basis to develop children's subitising skills, which are a major part of our maths curriculum. This is being able to 'see' an amount up to 5 without counting, such as on a die. You can help to develop these skills through stories—when reading together, ask questions such as 'How many birds can you see on this page?' etc, and encourage them to 'see the amount' without counting. Ask them 'What do you see, how do you see it?' -Play maths games together. Games have always been a fun way to engage children in their learning and a great bonding tool between adults and their children. Simple counting games, or games linked to their current objective in Maths, can support the children in engaging in their learning and retaining what they have learned.

-Numbers and shapes are EVERYWHERE. Help your child to recognise that numbers and shapes are everywhere. Asking them what the shape of a sign is on a walk or what number they see on the sign can be really important in developing their knowledge of Maths in real life contexts. You could develop this further by asking questions such as: what would the next number be?



Numberblocks

Numberblocks is a fantastic resource and is a huge part of our learning in EYFS. It features in the majority of our adult led sessions and the children absolutely love it! BBC Bitesize

have lots of resources including games and songs that can help to support children's secure understanding of number. Watch some of the episodes with your children so that you can understand how we explore the composition (the way numbers are made up) of numbers 1-10 and beyond.

Other useful websites

Topmarks offer a range of fun online games for you and your child to practise and range of concepts.



Youtube have a range of songs and rhymes to help practise counting, shapes, adding subtracting and much more!



BBC Bitesize have a range of free games exploring a variety of concepts linked to mathematics in Early Years.



By the end of EYFS, pupils are expected to...

Mathematics	Number & numerical patterns Shape, space & measure (not in expectations)	 Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally Use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities Create and describe patterns Explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them



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Mathematics Progression Map: Key Number Facts

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Reception	 Manipulating Numbers in preparation for Spring onwards 1+1 2+1 2+2 3+1 	 Number bonds to 5 2+2 3+1 2+3 4+1 3+3 4+2 5+1 5+2 4+3 6+1 4+4 5+5 	 Number bonds to 5 Number bonds to 10 4+2 5 + 2 6 + 2 7 + 2 4 + 3 5 + 3 6 + 3

The importance of practical learning

Practical learning, especially in their earlier years, is so important I the development of your child's understanding of mathematical concepts. ANYTHING can be made practical and you don't need our maths resources to achieve this. This is really visual and

crucial before your child moves onto pictorial and abstract learning. Here are some examples of how to make maths fun and practical for children at home.





Stories, songs and rhymes

- Count people/tings/objects on a page
 - Look for shapes in a picture Sing songs and rhymes
 - (Youtube is great for this)



Playdough

- Make numbers, 2D and 3D shapes
 Make a pattern with shapes and colour
- Build playdough models using time words such as now, next, etc...

Imaginative play

- Set the table for your toys. How many spoons will you need?
- Build a tower. Whose tower is tallest? How many bricks did you use?
- Sell food in a shop this is great for counting, money and recognising shapes in food.

Cooking/Baking

- Weigh out the ingredients when baking. Talk about how long it will take to cook.
- Decorate cakes with patterns.
- Cut food into different shapes.
- Count out how much you will need of an ingredient.

Routine

- Talk about today, tomorrow, yesterday
- Count to 20 when washing hands
- Count when tidying or picking things up. How many lego bricks did you pick up? How many of those were blue?
- Counting things on a walk.
- Looking for shapes and numbers in the world around us.

Water

Put different things in the bath or in a bowl to discuss heavy and light items
How much water different containers

hold to compare weight and capacity







