



Five fun maths activities to try at home

From board games to baking, below are some ways to get your child practising their maths skills without even realising. You can try these activities in addition to the daily Maths tasks your child will be completing each week!

Board Games

How long is it since you dusted the board games off for a family games session? **Retro games like Snakes and Ladders, Shut the Box and the dice game Pig are brilliant for developing maths skills.** In Snakes and Ladders, for example, your child is counting all the time, working out how many places they need to move forward, what number they need to throw to get to the biggest ladder, and what to avoid so they don't slip down the snake.' Dice games also involve probability, with children figuring out how likely it is that they'll throw a six, or whether sixes come up less frequently than other numbers. Other board games that are good for building maths skills include Scrabble, where your child needs to add up the points for their word – including double and triple letter and word scores – and Battleship, which helps them practise using coordinates.

Baking

Any learning activity that results in cake is bound to be a winner with your child, and baking is a good way to help them become familiar with mathematical skills like **weight** and **volume**. Cooking is great because you can adapt it to your child's age. Younger children can simply help with weighing ingredients and reading the numbers on the scales, while **for older children, you can make it more challenging by, for example, making a larger batch of cakes by doubling the recipe**, or getting them to calculate the volume of your cake tin and work out how much of each ingredient you'll need.

Painting and colouring

On the face of it, there might not seem to be much overlap between art and maths, but getting the paints and pens out can be a good opportunity to talk to your child about maths concepts. Colouring pictures with geometric patterns, or painting butterflies where your child paints one wing on one side of the paper and then folds it in half so it transfers to the other side, are really good opportunities to use mathematical language around shapes and **symmetry**. Drawing also involves measuring, perspective and scale, for example by copying something but at a size to fit your paper.



Origami

Paper plates, paper hats, flowers and swans... Origami is a thoroughly satisfying low-tech activity for kids, and is also a good way to encourage an understanding of many maths skills. Paper folding involves making sense of, and using, precise instructions – a form of problem-solving – and also helps children to understand symmetry and 2D and 3D shapes.

Planning

Planning a holiday or day trip provides a whole raft of ways for your child to practise using everyday maths. 'There are so many opportunities, from working out how long a journey will take and what time you'll have to leave, to following maps, to reading timetables.

Even packing a suitcase is helpful in developing children's spatial awareness, which is also a maths skill.

Maths on Toast has lots of activities to help children find the fun in maths, including some great [times tables games](#). Check out their [For Parents page](#) for more resources.