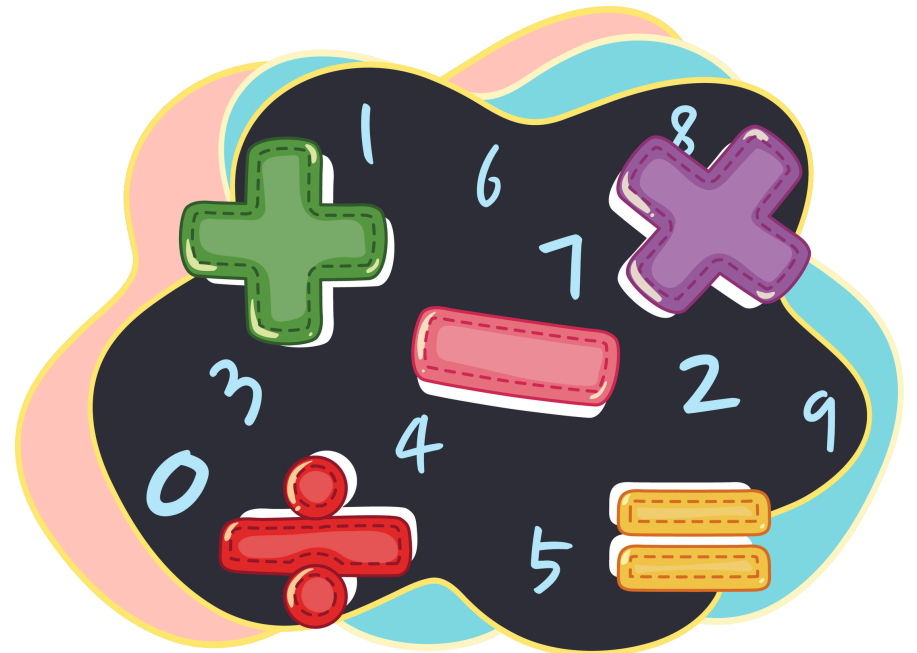


Three Counties Academy Trust



# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH MATHS AT HOME



## Is Maths Really That Important At Home?

As parents and carers, you have a great opportunity to develop your child's maths skills at home by involving them in everyday activities. If your child can help you work out which supermarket deal is cheapest, for example, then it's helping them understand maths in real life. It also helps develop their basic maths and problem solving skills, which are really important in the UK primary curriculum.

Don't underestimate yourself, or the power you have as a parent getting involved in your child's learning. It is well known that parental engagement raises pupil achievement.

### Start With A Positive Mindset

Do you ever find yourself saying, "I'm really bad at maths." or "I didn't like maths at school."? Children will often pick up on any negativity their parents express, which can create barriers to their learning. Try using positive language with your child, such as, "Excellent try but you've made a mistake, shall we work through it together? Don't worry, we all make mistakes." and also be as patient as possible when they're doing their homework. A positive attitude can make a big difference in how your child feels about maths.

### Play To Their Love Of Technology

While there's no substitute for personal support, sometimes you're busy or they might need a change. Giving children short bursts of online practice can be a great way to keep your child engaged with maths. There are plenty of fun and interactive maths games that are either free or an affordable price.

## MATHS GAMES WEBSITES

[www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games)

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/  
search/maths-games](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/search/maths-games)

[www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

[www.eng.mathgames.com](http://www.eng.mathgames.com)

If you need any further support, please ask your class teacher.

## TOP TIPS FOR YOUR KS1 CHILD

### Use Fractions In Daily Life

Fractions can be easy to practise with your child, even if you're not very confident with fractions yourself. Start with simple, common fractions such as  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ . For example, if you see a window divided into four equal coloured panels, you could ask your child "What fraction of the window is blue?" You don't have to use rounded shapes such as cakes and pizzas, any object that can be divided into equal part will do!

### Times Tables: Practice Practice Practice!

Times tables are essential as they help your child understand more challenging maths concepts. You can make learning times tables fun by sneaking practice into your daily routine. Car journeys provide a great opportunity to ask some times table questions. You could make it into a game where your child tests you or recites them backwards. Regular, casual practice helps build your child's confidence and proficiency.

### Involve Them With Problem Solving

The primary maths curriculum emphasises the importance of problem solving. As a parent, you can help your child practice these skills every day. You could, for example, ask them to work out the best deal in a supermarket or the sale price of an item after it has had 20% off. These types of activities not only help your child to develop their maths skills, they also provide examples of maths in the real world.

### Play Maths Games Together

Playing games is a fun way to bond with your child while also helping them to develop the mathematical and logic skills. Even simple games like jigsaws can develop logical thinking and spatial awareness. For example, snakes and ladders teaches children to count dice rolls and develops counting skills.

### Use Maths Talk Every Day

Talking about maths is a great way to support your child's mathematical development. With your KS1 child, start with the basics to avoid overwhelming them. Whenever you have the opportunity, try to include maths talk in their lives. For example, when they're playing with toys, you can reinforce their counting by asking questions such as, "How many pennies are you holding?" or "What shape is that object?" When counting, it's important to repeat the last number they say to help strengthen their understanding. For example, "One, two, three...three cars." Just like children's TV shows do. You can focus on simple concepts such as adding, subtracting, doubling and halving using everyday items such as food. Here are some fun questions you can ask during mealtime:

- "If I doubled the number of chicken nuggets on your plate, how many would you have?"
- "If I ate half the peas on your plate, how many would you have left?"
- "If we added all of my chicken nuggets to yours, how many would we have altogether?"

Turning these questions into a game can make maths fun and engaging for your child. Remember that every conversation does not need to have a mathematical focus, little and often is good enough.

### **Develop Their Memory Skills**

Today's children often don't need to memorise facts such as phone numbers. Though this seems small, it can be detrimental to your child's memory skills. Encourage your child to remember important information, such as your phone number or address, and quiz them on it now and then. This not only strengthens their memory but also helps keep them safe when they're away from you. Once they've mastered simple facts, encourage them to memorise more such as nursery rhymes or quotes from books or TV shows. This will support them in remembering key maths facts. Building strong memory skills now will benefit your child's learning and confidence in maths!

### **Watch Out For Shapes**

When you look around, everything is made out of shapes! Use everyday moments to help your child learn the names of shapes. You could, for example, identify a brick is a cuboid, windows are rectangles and tiles might even be hexagons. By identifying shapes in everyday life, you'll help your child build a strong understanding of geometry.

## **Top tips to engage your children with KS2 maths**

### **Play Maths Games Together**

Playing games is a fantastic way to have fun with your child while developing their mathematical and logic skills. Games such as jigsaws develop problem solving and logic skills. Other games like darts, scrabble and chess can develop skills that can be applied to maths.

### **Learn Their Maths Methods**

To support your child, it's helpful for you to understand the methods they are using during maths lessons, such as bar models. Using the methods your child is taught in school when at home will avoid confusion and help develop continuity between home and school. You can learn the methods used by checking the school's Calculation Policy, talking to their teacher or searching online.

### **Practise Reading The Time**

While many devices today show digital time, it's still important to learn how to read an analogue clock. You can create opportunities for your child to practice reading analogue clocks in your everyday life. You can, for example, ask them to read clocks you see when shopping. Learning to read the time can help your child manage their time better and reinforces their understanding of number.