

Calculating

- Sing lots of counting songs and rhymes to help develop children understanding of number such as 5 currant buns, 10 green bottles, 5 little speckled frogs etc
- When playing a game with the trains, cars dolls etc ask "who has more?", "I need 5 bricks to make this tower but I only have 3, what can I do?"
- Snack and meal times are also great opportunities to think about solving problems. Whether your child is eating crackers or pieces of apple, ask how many you gave out: "If you take away one, how many are left? If you give three more, how many will your child have then? How many plates do we need at the table? Have I put enough out? Do we need any more?"
- Demonstrate language such as "same as" , "less" or "fewer". As you read number stories or rhymes ask for example "How many ducks will there be left when one more goes?"
- Use pictures and objects to illustrate . Fingers work really well!
- Playing games is one of the most engaging ways to practise using numbers - such as skittles, hopscotch, etc
- Nearly every board game involves counting eg dominoes, snakes and ladders.
- Card games - Uno, snap , pairs, sevens, fish etc
- Don't forget dice games—ones with both the numerals as well as the spots.
- There are lots more different games to choose from!
- Talk about who came first second etc.
- Don't let your child win all the time!!

Here are a few useful websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/numberjacks/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/EducationalGames.aspx?cat=1>

Have fun!



Nursery A Guide to Helping your Child with Number and Maths language

Wheatfields Infants ' and Nursery
School, Downes Road, St.Albans
Hertfordshire AL4 9NT
Tel: 01727 859978
Admin@wheatfieldsinfants.herts.sch.uk

Numbers as Labels and for Counting

For many, maths is an intimidating topic. But it doesn't have to be. Not limited to just numbers, maths incorporates a broad range of skill sets and knowledge including sorting, colours, recognizing groups and patterns and counting. To help your child get an early jump on these important concepts, there are lots of math activities you can try that will not only get your child thinking logically, but have fun too.

Number Hunt!

Numbers are everywhere. Using the ones that you see in your day-to-day activities is a great way to teach your child to recognize and become familiar with them. Look out for them on doors, bus stops, at the supermarket & when driving in your car.

Count Often!

A young child learns numbers best by hearing them used in a variety of contexts. It is easy to count plates when setting the table, number your socks aloud when folding laundry, Count your child's toes, and then help them count your toes. Encourage them to use number words when putting items in the shopping trolley at the shops.

Each time your child uses counting words and numbers you can reinforce the idea that numbers symbolize a set amount of something as well as knowing that counting means an increase or decrease in the number of items.



No matter where you are, no matter what you are doing, start counting! The possibilities are endless. (The number of steps from the kitchen to the back door. How many pieces of mail in the post. How many beans on the plate? How many times you brush your hair.)

- At mealtimes talk about portions of food so that children learn about quantities, such as "enough", "more", "how many".
- Ask questions such as "Would you like one sandwich or two?"
- Allow children to understand that one thing can be shared eg a pizza.
- Don't forget to count backwards as well as forwards, its a great game to play when going up and down stairs!
- Children love "Blast off" when counting backwards but don't forget to mention zero.
- Chant and tell rhymes songs and stories that involve counting on and counting back.
- For now, just focus on numbers up to 10. Help your child get really confident at not only saying them but also using them—get your child to help in the supermarket "Can you put 3 apples in the bag please?"
- Lots of stories have numbers in them. Can you spot the numbers? Look at the age numbers. Can you find the number 5 etc?
- When building or playing... "Ask how many red bricks did we use?" "How many carriages are being pulled today?" "Can I have 2 ice creams from your shop?" "Can we make 6 sausages for tea with the playdough".
- Don't forget cooking! "How many eggs do we need? How many jelly pieces are there?" ... Get your child to count out the smarties to put on top of the cake. ... "Can you put four pieces of cucumber on the plate?"

Maths Language

You can introduce maths to your child without setting out to do a specific activity. It's a matter of making sure you recognize maths in everyday occurrences and then drawing attention to them. As you go about your daily activity, look for these common maths concepts and talk to your child about them:

2

Shapes and Patterns: Find naturally-occurring shapes and patterns wherever you happen to be -- the circle of the steering wheel or the rectangle of the office building; the pattern of tiles in the bathroom or on a floor, the colours on your socks.

Big and Small: Which item is bigger? Which is smaller? Can you find something bigger than or smaller than?

Empty and Full: The cup is full and now it is empty. Can you fill the bottle full of water?

Top, Bottom and Next To: I'm at the top of the stairs and you are at the bottom. What is at the top of the building? What is at the bottom? What is next to (beside) you? What colour car is next to us or behind us?

Tall and Short: Which is taller, your doll or your truck? Who has the shorter glass? Is the cereal box shorter or taller than the milk container? Which of your dolls has the longest hair?

Heavy and Light: The newspaper is lighter than the book. The bowl is heavier than the spoon. Which will be heavier, the rock or the stick?