

Maths is everywhere

Maths is about everyday life. We can't do such things as shopping, cooking, telling the time, fitting flat pack furniture together etc, without using our mathematical skills and knowledge. Maths is everywhere and it doesn't happen just at school or nursery.

There are opportunities for children's maths development everywhere:

- In the home
- In the street
- At the shops
- On the way to school
- At the park

Maths is fun

We can develop a positive attitude to maths by making it fun to:

- Count the steps we go up or down
- Look at the house numbers or bus numbers while in the street
- Set the table: how many plates etc do we need?
- Match pairs of socks
- Pick clothes that are big enough
- Chop up fruit together
- Sing number nursery rhymes

The most important thing to remember is that it should be
FUN!

Kitchen

Talk to your child as you go about your chores. allow them to have responsibility over certain things.



Let your child help you with baking and cooking.



What size pan do we need?



Do we need a whole one or half?



Are these the same or different?



How many **more** pieces of cake do we need?



Let your child help you to set the table and to put things away.



Do we need a big bottle or a small bottle?



Sometimes let your child hand over the money.

Shopping

Talk to your child as you go about your chores. allow them to have responsibility over certain things.

Number everywhere

Talk to your child about number of significance to them, your door number, the bus you catch every day.



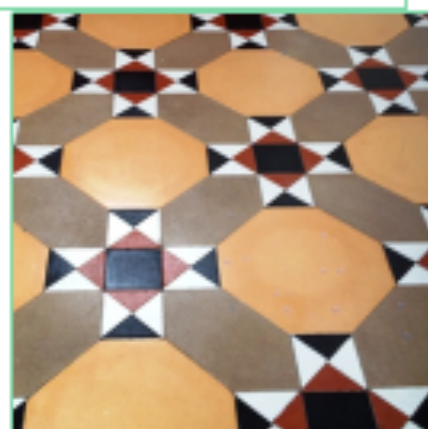
Can you see a number 4 anywhere?



We need to catch the number 55 bus.



Can you see the rectangles on the wall?



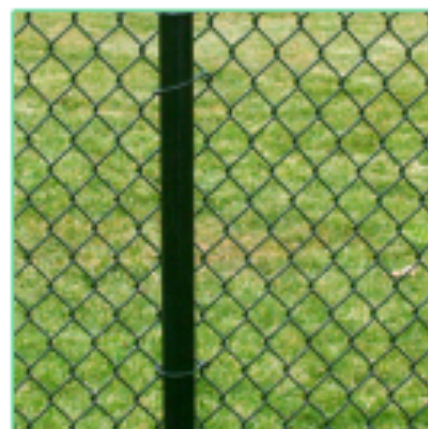
What different shapes can we see on the floor?



Point out numbers on road signs.



We need to wait 1 minute for our tube.



What shape can you see in the fence?



There's the tube sign, it's round and has a rectangle.

Songs

Nursery rhymes and songs introduce lots of maths, especially counting.



'5 fat sausages sizzling in a pan'



'5 little ducks went swimming one day'



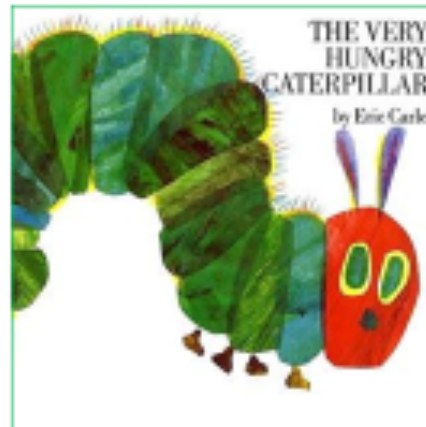
'1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive'



'5 little speckled frogs'

Books

Share books together, look for the maths, talk about the sequence of events, is this the beginning, middle or end?



Time and counting.



Positional language.



Taking away.



Interactive counting.

Water

Talk about sorting according to size, the same and different, talk about full, empty, more and less.



How many things are we washing up? How much water do we need?



Let your child sort the cutlery.



Let your child help to tidy away.



Use old water bottles, sponges, sieves and bowls in the bath.

Clothes

Talk about shape, colours and patterns on your own and your child's clothing.



Let your child help to match pairs of socks and gloves.



Point out numerals on clothing.



Talk about things being too big, too small or the right size.



Count buttons on cardigans and coats.

Top tips for maths

- Don't worry if your child makes mistakes when counting.
- Point out numbers in everyday life.
- Encourage your child to join in when you count.
- Give your child interesting things to explore.
- Include your child in tidying up and sorting things out together.
- Sing number rhymes together.
- Provide bricks and puzzles as these are good for problem solving.
- Talk about the things you see and touch - talk about size, shape and quantity.
- Keep all maths practical so your child develops maths understanding.

Have fun together!