

Some simple Maths ideas to do at home



It's quite a confusing time for our young people at the moment so I thought I would compile 10 simple ideas focussing on Maths that you can do at home, with a few rules to follow. Your child's teacher will have given you some more specific ideas to do with your child, these are just a few extra fun activities that are linked to maths.

Rule 1:

Know that you can do this! Teaching Maths doesn't need to be difficult or taxing. Trust yourself that you can do this.

Rule 2:

Make it fun and enjoy yourself. If you're having fun and enjoying yourself then your children will pick up on it and have fun too!

Rule 3:

Use what you have! Don't feel you need to go out and buy more things to teach maths at home, you can use what you have already!

Activities:

Make a simple cake/biscuit. Measure out the quantities with your children. Even if you're guessing, by putting the right amount of flour. Eggs etc into a bowl you're teaching quantity. You don't have to bake anything, you can make playdough or just play with the flour mix (although it'll get messy!). If you make biscuits, make them in different shapes (the stranger the better!).



Treasure hunt: Use small amounts of sweets/chocolates (whatever you have) and hide them in different parts of your house. Use the language of position (in the basket, under the bed, behind the sofa etc) to help develop their understanding of those phrases. If this is too difficult for them you can cut out some arrows from some scrap paper and help them to follow the arrows.



Play in the bath: Yes, it's that simple. Play with the water in the bath, take some plastic cups with you, take some spoons and plastic containers. Pour water from different heights, see which one holds the most amount of water. Make bubbles, make big bubbles, make small bubbles. Find out which things float and sink ([Link to science](#)).



Help to put the shopping away: Whether it came via a delivery or you've been to the supermarket count the different cans, fruit etc. What shapes can they see in what you've bought? Which is the smallest item, which is the largest item? Which bag is the heaviest?



Make a junk model: Before you put out the recycling use your empty cardboard and plastic containers to make a model. It doesn't matter what it is, it can be a car, guitar, shaker, or just a random assortment of boxes and bottles, have fun putting the items together seeing the different ways they can be stuck. No tape or glue? No problem. Don't make a model make a tower! How high can you stack the junk exploring the different types of towers you can make.



Go on a shape hunt around the house: What shapes can they find around the house? Can they find flat shapes (2D) can they find 3D shapes? Can they find some corners, can they find some straight sides? Can they find something curved? This is for some of the more able children.



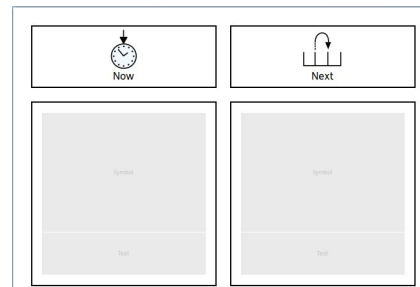
Obstacle course: Make a simple obstacle course using the furniture. They could go under the blanket around the chair, jump over the pillow etc. If you can use the words to accompany the actions that will extend the learning even more. Just remember to keep it safe and keep breakables out of the way!



Lay the table: Yes, really! This teaches children position, left and right, quantity (enough plates and cups for the people at home). If they are able they can even serve some of the dinner, breakfast to other family members. Tell them when there is enough on each plate, this teaches the children quantity.



Time: With your children being at home all day and not going outside it is difficult to teach the passage of time. However schedule activities using “Now” and “next” so they could be playing on the ipad “now” and “next” they are going to bake a cake, or lay the table any activity. This might seem obvious by actually it is the fundamentals of teaching the children time and very important at this time. Put time limits on activities using the timer on your phone. This will also help keep some structure to their day. Even at bedtime it can be “now” bedtime, “next” wake up/breakfast. If your children understand you can line up activities ie 1, 2, 3 They will be separate documents you can download if you wish or just use the language.



Sock matching/clothes sorting: Empty your/your child’s sock drawer and then match the socks back together. Look for the patterns on the socks to find the right ones. You can do the same with all of their clothes. Make a big pile and put all of the T-shirts together, all of the trousers together etc. This is teaching them about pattern, about quantity and also an important life skill. You can do this when you’re putting away the laundry or just do it for the fun of it!



These are just 10 simple and practical ideas that you can do at home with your children in addition to the activities given by your child’s teacher. Remember, whatever you do with your children make it fun!

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