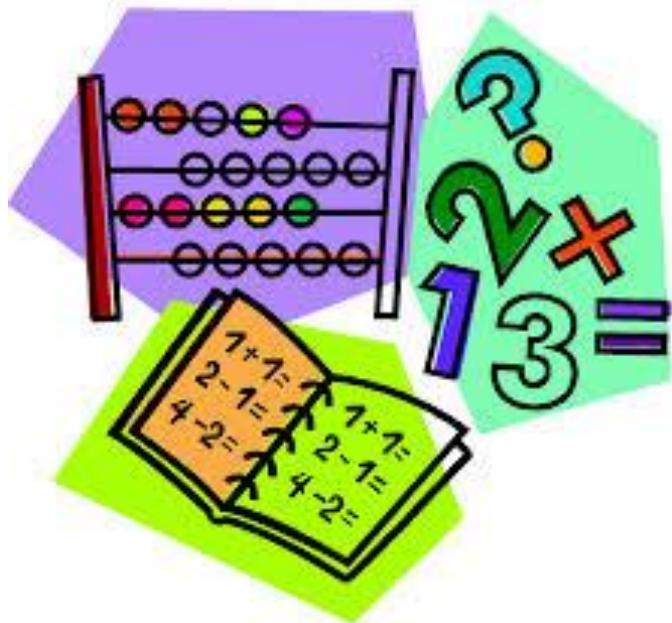


Support for parents on how to help and promote their child's Numeracy skills



We want to encourage pupils to continue discovering maths in a variety of creative ways which are fun and engaging.

1. One of the first things a child recognises is the idea that one object can be linked to another. So, talk about numbers in everyday contexts: 'Here is one apple for mummy and one for you.' Count the stairs as you both go up and down.



2. Following on is number recognition. When you are at home encourage your child to recognise numbers on books TV, food prices, clocks, weights and phone numbers.



3. Play games, puzzles and sports that involve numbers and counting. Anything with dice is good, as well as simple card games and bingo. Construction games are helpful in developing an understanding of spaces, objects and how they fit together. Add number apparatus to your child's toy collection: counters, a purse full of change, dice, dominoes, a tape measure, ruler, pack of cards, timer, different shaped packages. There are lots of songs and rhymes that involve counting and numbers. Those with actions are especially fun to sing, so altogether now for '5 Little Monkeys'!



4. Get your child to help with the shopping. Count items as they go into the trolley and look at the size of various packages: decide which container is bigger or smaller, taller or shorter, holds more or less. Set up a play shop at home, using old packaging as 'stock' and write the prices on sticky labels. Later on, this will give opportunities for adding up and subtracting to calculate change. Advanced children can practice money and money management as well as comparing discounts which are a great opportunity for some quite complex mental maths.



5. Gardening - most children love to help out in the garden so it makes a fun and memorable learning opportunity. Counting, measuring, reading temperature, sorting are all mathematical activities for children. Advanced children may enjoy planning a gardening project - introducing scale, evenly spacing out seeds, checking temperatures and measuring plants as they grow.



6. Bath-time is great for simple shape and volume activities - does the beaker hold more water the plastic cup? Show your child how to use a simple thermometer to take the temperature of the water



7. Cooking is good to help your child get to know simple weights and measures. An old-fashioned set of balance scales is ideal. Count out the ingredients. Let your child help you set the timer and countdown to teatime! Bear in mind that your child will be learning the metric system at school, so try to measure amounts in grams and kilograms. Fractions can also be introduced in sharing out portions



8. Measure your child's height and show him/her where their height is on a chart. Provide them with a simple tape measure and get them to measure the length or height of objects in the home. As with weights and measures, try to use metres and centimetres when measuring things with your child.



Golden rule : Praise for effort, not performance.

