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NUMBERS: LEARNING AT HOME

MAKING SENSE OF MATHS

Here are some ideas to help you bring maths to life for your child:

- Think out loud when you use numbers, time, position and measurement so your child sees how useful maths can be. For example: *I wonder if we have enough apples?* and *Let's count to make sure.*
- Encourage your child to talk through what they are doing. Ask questions and let your child ask questions too. This helps them make sense of things and helps them understand what they are doing. It is a great way to learn.
- Use maths and number words when you describe things. Instead of saying: *The bucket*, you might say: *The 10 litre bucket*. This helps your child learn about the different words that are used to describe how to measure things.

Follow the golden rule of 'little and often' – a few minutes each day learning about numbers is better than a 30 minute maths session.

It's important to remember that children progress at different rates.

Be patient, positive and supportive. Be sure to praise them for having a go, even if they get the answer wrong.

- Praise your child for trying, even if they give the wrong answer. If they don't know the answer, give them time to work it out. If you do give them the answer, talk about how you worked it out. This builds your child's confidence in learning. Give them time to think and time to answer your questions. Be patient.
- Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate if there are no distractions.



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Education

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