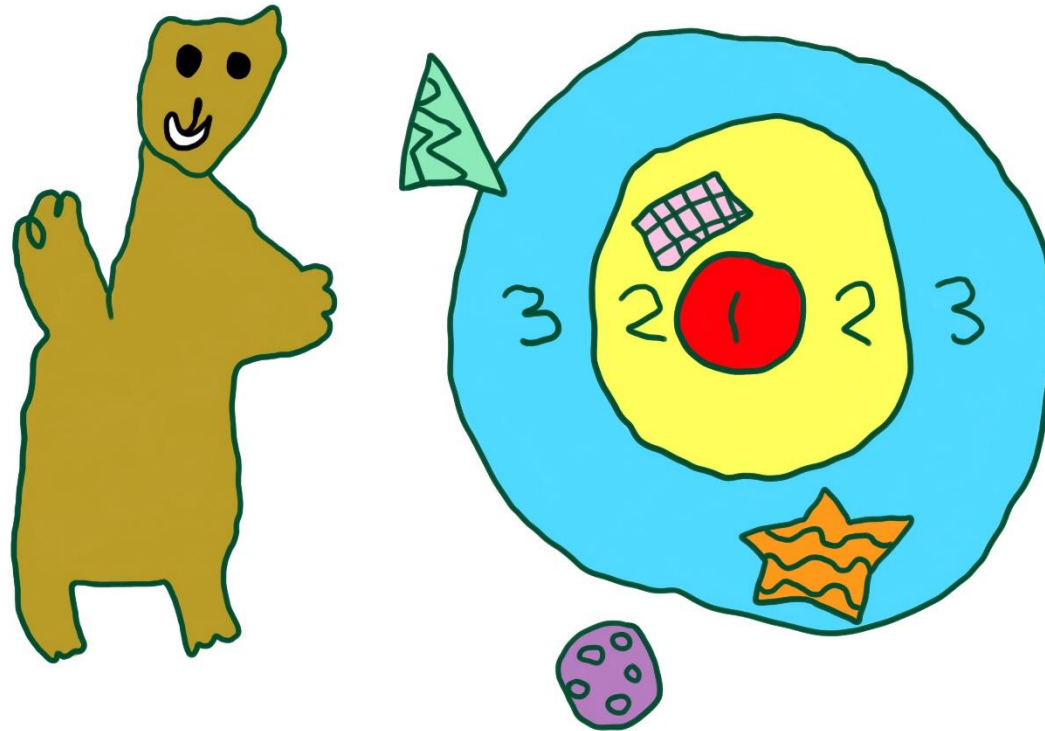


Warwick Nursery School



Parents Leaflet 4: Maths

Why is maths important?

1. Maths is everywhere! Numbers, shapes, sizes, patterns are all around us. We all use our understanding of maths many times each day without even realising it.
2. An understanding of maths is vital for problem-solving. It helps us to make order out of chaos and to think logically and critically.
3. Being confident to count helps get children off to a good start in maths.
4. Children apply their mathematical understanding to help them with their daily play and activities - e.g. fitting and balancing blocks together.
5. If you don't understand maths, how can you tell the time?

Follow your child's lead...

“Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics. I can assure you mine are still greater.”

Albert Einstein

“The only way to learn about mathematics is to do mathematics.”

Paul Halmos



“Go down deep enough into anything and you will find mathematics.”

Dean Schlicter

“It is just as natural for young children to think mathematically as it is for them to use language.”

Ann-Marie Dibiase

Your child will develop at their own rate and in their own way.

How can you support your child's mathematical understanding?

1. Talk about the 'maths' that you use in your daily routine - e.g. counting the correct number of plates at meal times.
2. Make patterns together - e.g. with cutlery at the dinner table or coloured beads on a string.
3. Counting sets of everyday objects or actions (e.g. steps) supports children to move on from counting by rote (in order). Let children see you counting them yourself too to help with ordering numbers.
4. Use maths vocabulary regularly - e.g. shape names; size language; 'first', 'next', 'last' - to familiarise children with it.

5. Sing counting songs and rhymes, holding up the correct number of fingers to correspond with the number in the song.
6. Involve your child in solving simple problems (e.g. "I wonder how many more apples I can fit in the fruit bowl.")
7. Model using positional language (e.g. 'on', 'under', 'next to', 'behind') when asking children to get something for you or put something back.
8. Children need to experience, or 'do', maths to really understand it, so encourage them to build and balance with all sorts of different shaped objects.
9. Let them play with a calculator and experiment with the number keys.

Ideas to try at home:

Play dominoes together. Children will begin to recognise the number of spots on a domino without counting - an important mathematical skill called 'subitising', essential for adding and calculating.

Cook together. There are so many maths opportunities when cooking - counting eggs and spoonfuls, weighing, using numbers on scales, looking at numbers in recipes.

Board games are great for children to count actions (e.g. how many spaces they need to move forward on a board).

Experiment with maths at bath time. How many ducks can fit into a plastic tub? Play with stacking cups - talk about size and capacity - which holds more water?

Sorting and organising. Get your child to help you sort things at home - it could be tins of food, washing or old clothes. Sort them into types and then count them together.

Make pictures out of different shaped everyday objects - e.g. placemats, dusters, small boxes, yogurt pots, kitchen paper tubes.



Ideas to try out and about:

Go on a Number Walk: when you're out and about or on your way to Nursery, look for numbers around you - on buses, front doors, road signs, in shops, number plates etc.

Play Shape 'I Spy' with objects around you: e.g. "I spy with my little eye something that is a circle."

Make some number skittles. Fill old plastic bottles with sand or soil and use them to play skittles in the garden. How many have been knocked down? How many are left?

Make an obstacle course to support children's understanding of positional language e.g. over, under, through. Large cardboard boxes and old blankets are great for this.

Collect natural resources when you're out and about (e.g. conkers, leaves, pine cones), then sort and count them together.

Measuring the length and weight of objects in the garden or the park: Which is the longest stick? Which log is the heaviest? Problem-solve together to find the answers.



Useful information:

Nursery School planning boards (inside the cloakroom) give ideas for how to support your child's learning at home. Subscribe too to our app and follow us on Facebook for further ideas.

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups for more ideas and information.

For safety reasons, always supervise your child during their play. Remember, small objects can be choking hazards. Ensure that they thoroughly wash their hands after playing outside or with 'messy' resources inside.

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