

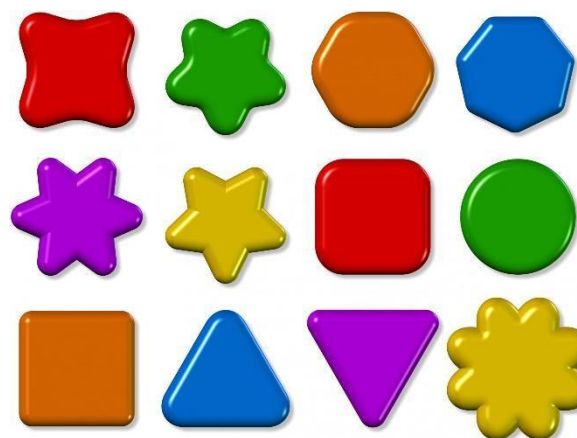


St Francis CE Primary School

Ducklings Nursery Class



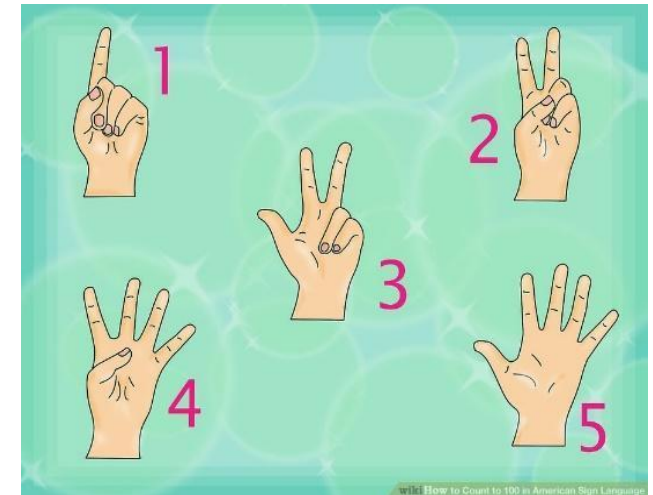
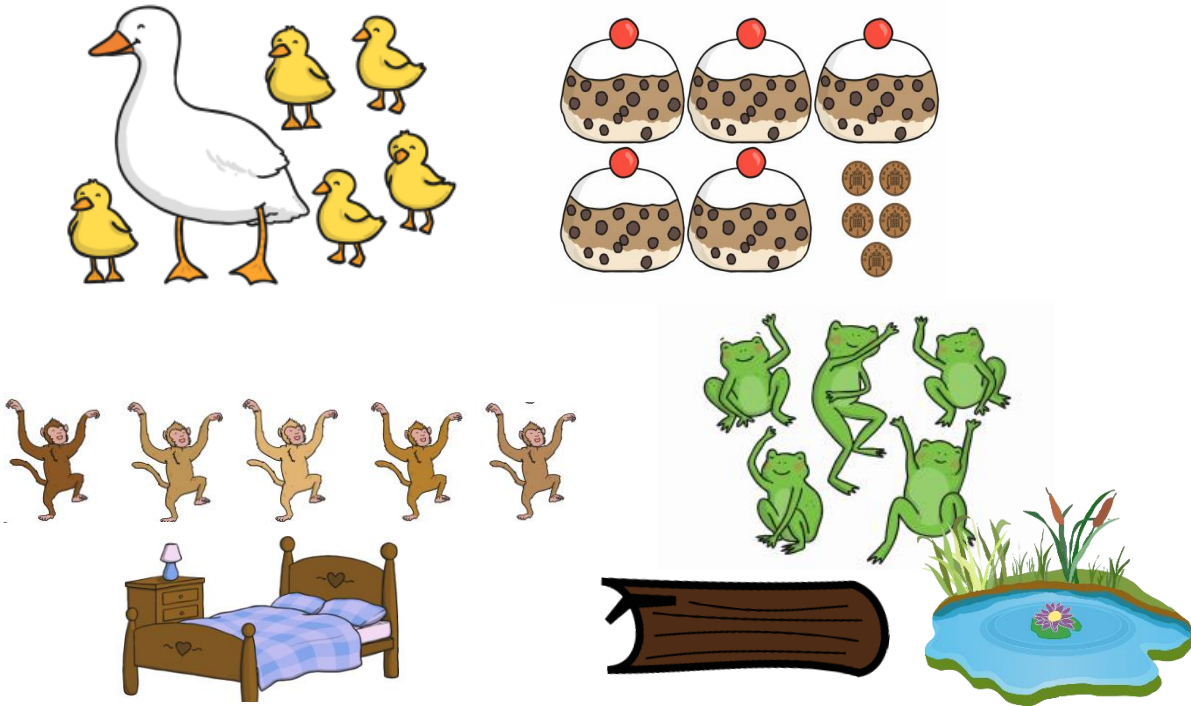
Incorporating maths into your daily life.
Having fun with everyday maths.



Ideas to try at home with your child:

1. Fun with songs and rhymes:

- Sing number songs and rhymes together - rhymes involving counting and finger actions stimulate the connections in the brain between fingers and numbers.
 - Dance together – helps children to become aware of counting and develop a sense of rhythm.
 - Create silly versions, e.g., ‘Five pink elephants sitting on the wall.’
 - Introduce shakers with the rhymes. Make a shaker by filling empty bottles with pasta or rice.
 - Act out ‘5 little ducks,’ ‘5 currant buns,’ 5 little speckled frogs’ or ‘5 little monkeys Jumping on the bed’.
- Ask how many do we have left each time. Use number fingers to help with counting.



We call these number fingers. Ask your child how many fingers you are holding up.

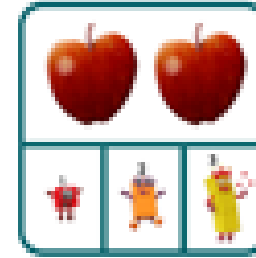
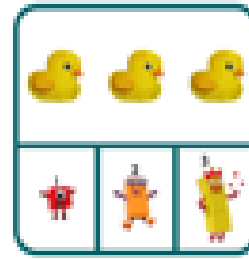
Can they recognise the correct number just by looking, rather than physically counting each finger?

Ideas to try at home with your child:

2. Fun whilst cleaning and tidying

Make the most of mathematical conversations when cleaning and tidying with your child.

- This will enable you to ask questions – ‘How many?’ and ‘How many more?’
- How many ducks shall we put in the bath?
- How many apples shall we get from the fridge? We need one for you and one for me, how many is that all together?
- Give your child opportunities to match socks after they have been washed
- Let them sort shoes into matching pairs when tidying.



- Develop children's understanding of shape and space when putting shopping away in the cupboard or fridge or when tidying their toys away or even when dusting or making the beds.



Whose shoes are bigger?



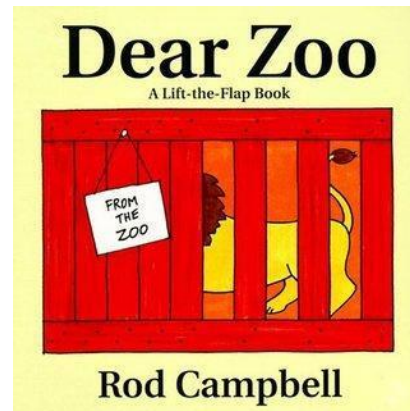
Ideas to try at home with your child:

3. Fun with books and stories:

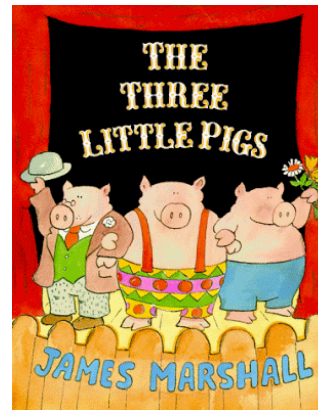
- Share books that support children's understanding of mathematical language, such as, 'Dear Zoo', 'Where's Spot', 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' or 'The Three Bears'. Use plastic toys, soft toys, puppets or props that children can use to re tell the story.



We can't go **over** it, we can't go **under** it. Oh no! We've got to go **through** it.
(Directional vocabulary)



They sent me a giraffe, but he was **too tall**, so I sent him back.
(Size vocabulary)



Talking about the **strength** of building materials and using vocabulary **1st, 2nd and 3rd**.
(Ordinal numbers)

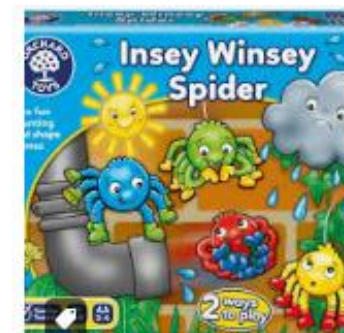


Using puppets or toys sing Old MacDonald had a farm, EIEIO. And on that farm, he had:
1 sheep
2 ducks
3 cows
4 horses
5 chickens
(Number names)

Ideas to try at home with your child:

4. Fun with games

- Games – Play games such as Simon says – Children do the action that Simon says e.g., Simon says 'Touch your toes.' 'Simon says 'Jump up and down.' If you just say 'Swing your arms' the children should not swing their arms, only do the action if the sentence starts with Simon says. Other examples might be Simon says...make yourself tall, make yourself small, show me one finger, show me five, stand on the red mat, draw a circle in the air etc.
- Games – for younger children make a treasure basket – a collection of round objects of different sizes; scarves, ribbons etc. Roll a dice, recognise the number shown, if it shows a number 3, then take 3 things out of the basket.
- Make playdough into a variety of lengths, shapes and weight.
- Magnetic fishing with numbers, snap, sorting games, bricks for building and posting; jigsaws games with a dice and games where you have to move a counter along a track, such as snakes and ladders. Encourage counting and conversations about numbers. Help your child's understanding of 'more' or 'less' and moving backwards and forwards



Ideas to try at home with your child:

5. Fun in the kitchen:

- Make snacks together, such as fruit, salad, sandwiches etc. Talk about cutting them into halves, quarters or fun shapes. Count the pieces as you slice them or share them equally.
- Use teddies/toys with cups and bowls for a teddy or toys party. Chat about the number of plates needed, match for colours, match one cup and bowl to each teddy. Roleplay the party and sing the rhyme, 'I'm a little teapot.'

Let your child watch you in the kitchen and let them help as much as possible in cooking and preparing meals. This might include:

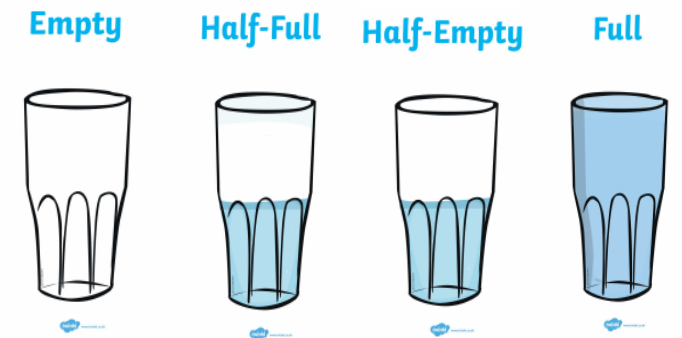
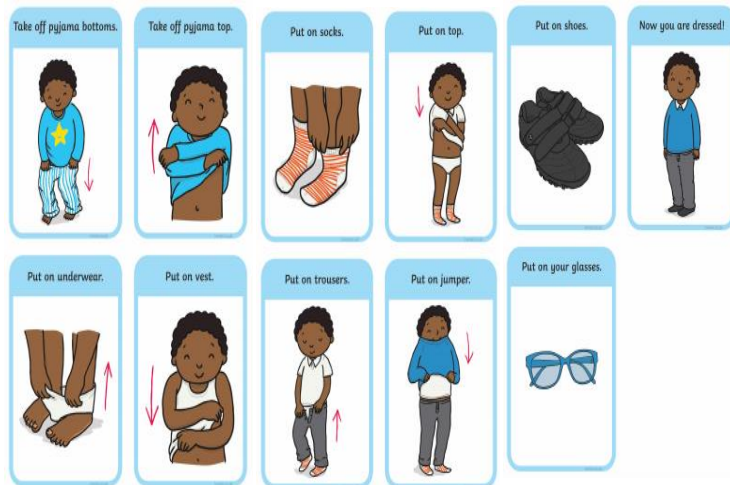
- Helping to weigh ingredients, using measuring spoons.
- Finding the best size pot for cooking carrots.
- Talking about the oven temperature for cooking a cake.
- Measuring the amount of water to add to a soup.
- Putting enough water in the kettle to make 2 cups of tea.
- Matching the dish/tray to the size and shape of the pizza.
- Setting the oven timer and counting down to dinner time.
- Ensuring everyone has a knife, fork and spoon or cup and plate, matching colours of plates.
- Pouring glasses of water.
- Filling plastic bowls and jugs with water.



Ideas to try at home with your child:

6. In the bath and getting ready to go out or go to bed:

- Bath time – toys and containers that encourage filling and pouring; talking about things that are full and empty, the heaviness of containers when they are full of water; which holds more or less water. Bubbles – compare big, small and tiny bubbles. Use a timer for cleaning teeth – can we clean your teeth for 1 minute?
- Count stairs when you are walking, count buttons when your child is fastening them on their clothes or toes whilst putting on socks. Count anything anywhere!
- Bedtime – talk about what they do first – undress, clean teeth; next pyjamas on; then – story time, goodnight, a big kiss and off to sleep.
- Whilst getting dressed– chat about what they like to wear, colours of clothing and size of clothing. In what order do we dress? E.G., first, next, back to front, inside out; ten fingers, ten toes; who's got bigger feet?



Ideas to try at home with your child:

7. Fun maths ideas when out and about:

Take time to talk about mathematical ideas when out and about. This might include:

- Letting children put shopping items in the trolley.
- Drawing attention and talking about numbers in the environment, on packaging, on doors, on road signs and buses.
- Riding through puddles on bikes or buggies and looking at the length of the trail left behind.
- Counting trees, lamps posts or different coloured cars.
- Exploring different kinds of movement – round and round, back and forth, up and down.

• Go on a number, shape or colour hunt:

'I spy with my little eye, something that is yellow.'

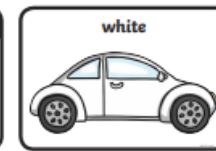
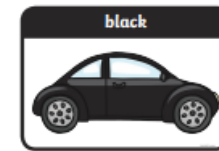
'I spy with my little eye, something that is round.'

'I spy with my little eye, something that is square.'

'I spy with my little eye, something that is big.'

- Sing number songs as you walk together or travel in the car or bus.
- For younger children to talk about big lorries, small cars or blue cars and red buses.

Older children might like to collect things such as leaves, twigs, stones, grasses, feathers to sort into heavy/light, long/short, etc.



Here is some mathematical language that we use with children to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts.

- How many?
- Subitise - can you tell me how many cars you can see just by looking with your eyes?
- Count, counting, chanting, singing numbers, 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, count forward, count backwards, count on from...
- ones, tens, a hundred, a thousand, a million.
- first, second, third, last, before, after,
- more, less, few, altogether, too much, too many, not enough, the same, different, add, take away, subtract, how many, share,
- in, on, off, under, over, above, below, between, behind, in front, next to.
- full/empty, bigger/smaller, taller/shorter, higher/lower, longer/shorter, heavier/lighter.
- shape, corners, sides, square, circle, semi-circle, triangle, rectangle, round, flat, cube etc.

Having fun with mathematics at home

- Maths is not something that you have to sit down and do quietly with your child, but a fun practical activity. Children learn maths through their daily life – we call this everyday maths.
- Without experiencing mathematical play, your child will find it hard to understand mathematical words such as add, halve, takeaway and mathematical symbols such as 1, 2, and 3.
- Let your child see you using maths whenever possible by thinking aloud when making calculations and encouraging them to join in as you count.

Did you know?

- Children begin to learn the sequence of numbers through rhymes, songs and play.
- Children learn the names of numbers when they hear them over and over again – counting the stairs; cups on the table; bowls for breakfast; sharing biscuits etc.
- Playing with and talking about number, shape and size will help children to learn more about the world around them and allow them to use mathematical language in their free play.
- Children need to be given time to ask and answer questions.
- Traditional stories are often based on patterns of **size**: Goldilocks and the Three Bears; **strength**: The Three Billy Goats Gruff or **time**: The Three Little Pigs
- Young children love to join in with counting or repeating rhymes built into the story. In this way they learn the patterns and rhythms of language and counting.
- Children learn the names of shapes, colours and numbers when they hear them again and again in everyday situations. Children then begin to make links with the shapes they know and with shapes in the environment – e.g. ‘That roof looks like a triangle.’ ‘That door is a rectangle shape.’ ‘This hoop rolls like the Wheels on the bus song, because it’s round.’
- Pointing out and talking about shape, size, colour and numbers all around you helps prepare your child for activities in nursery and later in school.
- Playing games with your children will help them to learn about shape, size, colour and number. Try sorting objects by colour, shape or size and ask how many each time.
- If you can establish a few familiar routines, you will give your child a sense of order and a sense of time. E.g. We brush our teeth after breakfast. You put on your pyjamas before you get into bed.