

Friday 27th November 2026

Why Maths at Home Matters









The home learning environment plays a vital role in children's learning and development. Everyday activities such as baking, planting seeds, completing jigsaws, shopping and playing games help children develop important mathematical skills in meaningful and enjoyable ways.



Research shows that what children experience at home can have a significant impact on their cognitive, emotional and educational outcomes (Banerjee, 2025).







Maths is everywhere when children plant seeds!

This simple activity helps develop a wide range of early mathematical skills through real-life, hands-on learning.





Baking is a fantastic way to develop mathematical understanding through a fun, real-life activity. Children naturally use maths as they measure, count, compare and follow a sequence of steps.

Completing jigsaws helps children develop spatial reasoning and problem-solving skills, which are important foundations for mathematical thinking.





A trip to the shops provides countless opportunities to develop mathematical skills in a real-life context. Children use maths to count, compare, estimate and solve problems every step of the way.

Board games, card games and simple family games are an excellent way to develop mathematical thinking while having fun together.





Sorting Laundry

Maths skills: Sorting, matching, pattern, comparing size, counting, sequencing.

- Match socks into pairs.
- Sort clothes by colour, size or family member.
- Order clothes from smallest to largest.



Setting the Table

Maths skills: Counting, one-to-one correspondence, sharing, problem-solving.

- Count plates, cups and cutlery needed.
- Check everyone has one of each item.
- Work out how many more are needed if a guest arrives.



Going for a Walk

Maths skills: Counting, shape, measure, pattern, positional language.

- Count steps to the park.
- Look for shapes in the environment.
- Compare lengths of sticks or leaves.
- Follow directions such as behind, next to and between.



Building with Lego or Blocks

Maths skills: Shape, spatial reasoning, pattern, measure, problem-solving.

- Count bricks.
- Create repeating patterns.
- Compare heights of towers.
- Explore symmetry and balance.



Cooking and Serving Food

Maths skills: Fractions, counting, sharing, measure.

- Cut pizza or toast into halves and quarters.
- Share snacks equally.
- Discuss more, less and equal.



Daily Routines

Maths skills: Time, sequencing, ordering.

- Talk about what comes first, next and last.
- Read clocks and timers.
- Estimate how long activities take.



Travelling

Maths skills: Counting, number recognition, position.

- Spot numbers on doors, buses and number plates.
- Count red cars or traffic lights.
- Discuss left, right, near and far.



Reading Stories

Maths skills: Counting, pattern, sequencing, reasoning.

- Count objects in illustrations.
- Predict what happens next.
- Look for repeated patterns in stories.



Nature Hunts

Maths skills: Counting, sorting, comparing, data handling.

- Collect leaves, stones or conkers.
- Sort into groups.
- Create tally charts and pictograms.



Bath Time

Maths skills: Capacity, measure, comparison.

- Explore full, empty and half-full.
- Compare different containers.
- Estimate and test how many cups fill a jug.

Art



Arts and Crafts

Maths skills: Shape, pattern, symmetry, measure.

- Create repeating patterns.
- Make symmetrical pictures.
- Measure and compare lengths of materials.

Measuring



Measuring

Maths skills: Measure, comparison, estimation.

- Measure furniture using blocks or hands.
- Estimate then count stairs.
- Compare the heights of family members.

Maths resources don't need to be expensive!

Many of the best maths activities use everyday items from around the home.

By collecting and saving simple resources, families can create endless opportunities for mathematical learning through play.



-  Bottle Tops
-  Empty Food Tins and Containers
-  Odd Socks
-  Cardboard Boxes
-  Plastic Cups and Containers
-  Pasta Shapes
-  Coins
-  Dice
-  Jigsaws
-  Junk Mail Catalogues and Leaflets
-  Egg Boxes
-  Takeaway Containers
-  Natural Objects
-  Buttons and Beads
-  Tape Measures and Rulers
-  Playing Cards



Remember, maths is in all we do:

- ✅ Making a shopping list
- ✅ Wrapping presents
- ✅ Organising toys into boxes
- ✅ Planning a journey
- ✅ Gardening
- ✅ Completing jigsaws
- ✅ Playing cards
- ✅ Sharing sweets fairly
- ✅ Packing a suitcase
- ✅ Tidying a bedroom



Thank you for coming today.

We hope you've taken away some simple ideas for supporting maths learning at home.

Remember, some of the best maths learning happens through **play, talk** and **everyday experiences.**

Now, let's enjoy some time with our children and explore **maths together.**

