

Use calculators

Using calculators can improve children's mathematics and help them feel positive about maths. Give your child books of calculator activities (and a calculator) and help them use it to work out things in daily life. Encourage your child to:

- work out the monthly cost of feeding a cat, a rabbit or a hamster
- work out how much money he will need for his weekend at his friend's - bus fares, entrance fee to the skating rink, snacks....

Use computers

Children at this age can play complex games of strategy on the computer. These games involve children in making strategic mathematical choices in order to win. They can use the Internet to find out information for school work, and for home projects. There are lots of websites and apps featuring mathematical games, puzzles and activities.

Encourage your child to:

- draw a plan of her new bedroom
- design the sandpit you are going to build for his baby sister
- search the Internet for facts and figures about space, sport or animals
- search the Internet for sites that provide maths games and puzzles

Games with maths in

Aim for 30 - for one player (or 2 people playing together)

You need a calculator and six cards, numbered 1 to 6. The aim of the game is to get as close as you can to 30 on the calculator. Shuffle the cards and lay them in a line, face up.

The rules are:

- pick up the first card, put that number in the calculator, and turn the card over because it is used up
- now pick up the next card and choose whether to press +, -, x or ÷ then press the number and =
- turn that card over and use the next number in the same way
- go on using the numbers one at a time

Either stop when you get close to 30, or you can use up all the cards. Find out how close you can get.

(Round a decimal number up or down to the nearest whole number)