For children at nursery and P1

Children love to build on their life experiences and interests. Imaginative play encourages children to learn new words through conversation. Play helps children to explore their own ideas. They can learn early numeracy and mathematics skills through their activities. They can sort, match, count, measure and compare the weight of items, recognise shapes and develop their understanding of how money is used in the real world.

**What to do together :**

* Set up a pretend shop.
* Choose things around the house to use for money eg: bottle tops or buttons.
* If you have coins at home, and your children can play with these safely, it is really good for children to handle real money in their play.
* Can you show your child a selection of coins, either real coins, play money or pictures of coins, and ask them questions like, ’Which coin do you recognise?’, ‘Can you order the coins from lowest to highest value?’, ‘ How many different ways can you make 5p?’
* Take turns being the customer and the shop keeper. Encourage your child to talk about money as you play. For example, asking ‘How much is this please?’, ‘Do I have enough money for this?’
* During the play, you and your child could talk about how much items might cost in a shop. Encourage your child to use words like less, more and same as.
* If you have older or younger children they can join in the play too.

For children at P2/P3/P4

To set up this activity, parents should select 6 different items from the weekly shop.

* Have a general chat with your child about the meaning of light and heavy. Can they describe something that is light, or something that is heavy? Support your child to describe items such as an apple, a tin of soup and a big bag of potatoes using language like, heavy, heavier, heaviest.
* Encourage your child to discuss how heavy each of the six chosen items are and compare the weight of each object.
* If you have an item that weighs a kilogram (kg), for example a bag of sugar, pasta or flour, then use this to help your child guess if the other items are less than 1kg, about 1kg, more than 1kg.
* Help your child check the weight on the packaging and put the 6 items in order from lightest to heaviest. Discuss with your child if they got their ordering correct.
* Can your child find other ways to sort their items, for example by height, colour and preference?
* Make a list of other things around your house that you think weigh less than 1kg, about 1kg, more than 1kg.

For children at P5/P6/P7

To set up this activity, parents should select 6 different items from the weekly shop.

Ask your child to sort the items into two groups - items measured in millilitres (ml) and litres (l), and items measured in grams (g) and  kilograms (kg).

* Discuss with your child their understanding of millilitres and litres and discuss how much liquid various items around the house would hold, for example, a teaspoon and a bath. For example ask questions like, ‘Would a teaspoon of water hold more or less water than the bath?’, ‘Would the water in the bath be best measured in millilitres or litres?’, ‘How could we best measure the water on the teaspoon?’
* Discuss with your child their understanding of grams and kilograms and discuss how the weight of the items would be measured, for example, a banana and a large bag of potatoes.
* Help your child work out the combined weight or volume of 2, 3 or 4 different items?
* Discuss with your child how many millilitres are in one litre, ½ a litre or ¼ of a litre.
* Discuss how many grams are in ½ or ¼ kg.