

Measure up to Maths

- Make the most of measuring by making sure your son or daughter knows what words such as "long" and "short", "heavy" and "light", "full" and "empty", "high" and "low" and "thick" and "thin" mean.
- There are plenty of opportunities for this in everyday life from buying petrol, to buying clothes, to looking at buildings and trees, all of which show just how much maths is all around.



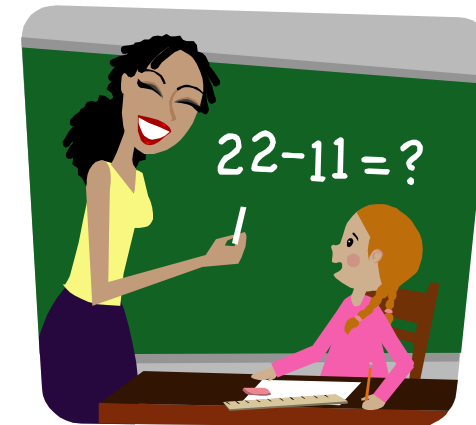
Take any or all of the first steps we've suggested and your son or daughter will be well on the way to taking his or her own next steps in maths when school starts in August. And remember that help and advice is always available from your school between now and August.

Shaping up to Maths

- Look at buildings with your son or daughter to spot rectangles and triangles.
- Encourage him or her to play with wooden or plastic blocks, boxes, cubes and cylinders and to use different shapes when drawing.
- Teach them the names of shapes - knowing them will come in useful at school.



St. Joseph's Primary. First Steps in Maths.



Here are some easy fun ideas to try with your child. It is never too early to make young interest count!

Maths Matters!

You can use everyday people, places and things to figure out maths.

- Shopping, travelling, setting the table and tidying the house all count in building up awareness.
- Answer your son or daughters maths questions.
- Give lots of praise.
- Don't last too long on any one theme.
- Remember maths is fun!

Sorting out Maths

Get your child off to a flying start by showing him or her how to sort everyday things by shape, size and colour

- Sorting soft toys into one box and putting books in another.
- Sorting laundry into different piles



Maths Matches

- Encourage your child to find things that are the same.
- Help them look for patterns that are the same - stripes, spots and checks are all useful.
- Play "snap" - or any board game which depends on matching

Time for Maths

- Use familiar times such as bedtime, breakfast time and dinner time to make time count.
- Stress the days of the week, the times of the day.
- Use clocks at home, in shops and on buildings to make sure that they 'clock' the time.



Maths is Money

- 'Cash in' on this by explaining different monetary values and point out and talk about prices when you go shopping with your child
- Make money count for maths by showing how it all adds up.



Making Maths Count

- Find numbers in well-loved nursery rhymes - "one, two buckle my shoe", three blind mice etc.
- Count the stairs as you go up and down them.
- Count when you go shopping - Use apples or cartons of milk.
- Count the cutlery when you're setting the table.
- Remember that every child loves counting small things like buttons and bigger things like buses.