**A Curriculum for Excellence**

**How to help your**

**Early Level Learner**

**With**

**Numeracy & Mathematics**

St. Mark’s Primary School





Helping your child with

Numeracy & Mathematics

Early Level

This leaflet will give you some ideas about how to support your child’s learning in Numeracy & Mathematics in small, fun, practical ways at home.

Please be encouraged to talk to your child about Numeracy & Mathematics; their skills, confidence and fluency can be developed greatly by doing so. We should be encouraging our learners to use the language of Mathematics wherever possible; like learning a foreign language, it needs to be used to become natural.



Number

Helping your child to develop their knowledge of number will benefit them enormously. Pointing out numbers around them so that they are able to recognise numerals will help them when they begin to record maths formally later on in their development. Having a knowledge of what number means and being able to count by rote will also help, try adding 1 more and taking 1 away. Also look at counting in 2’s and 10’s.

Number songs and rhymes are a great way of learning and using numbers.

Children’s number skills can be supported in all sorts of fun ways at home. Board games such as snakes and ladders are a great way of making them familiar with the number system and simple addition and subtraction.

Playing cards are also great to use. Simple dice games and dominoes can help number recognition.

Shape

Draw your child’s attention to shapes and colours that you see together. Go on a shape walk to see which shapes (2d & 3d) they can spot in the environment.

Puzzles are a great way to encourage the children to look at irregular shapes; discuss whether they are straight, curved etc.. This also helps with spatial awareness and fine motor skills.

Money

Receiving (and spending!) pocket money can make children very keen learners in this area! Use any shopping trips or play shop to encourage your child to be able to recognise coins. By opening a Credit Union account, they will have opportunity to use numbers and money.

Time

Make sure that there are both traditional and digital clocks around the house.

Give them a ‘special mission’ of telling everyone when tea is ready or when it’s bedtime.

Talk about different times of the day (morning/afternoon etc), days of the week and months of the year.

Measures

Get your child to help with the washing up! This is a great way of encouraging them to compare different containers for capacity. Encourage them to use comparative language like big, little, heavy, light.

Use positional language such as in front of, next to, underneath. A game of hide the teddy is great for this.

Every day maths

An important part of children’s learning in maths involves applying their skills to everyday problems and situations. Encouraging them to practise their maths skills in daily life will benefit them enormously.

Matching pairs of socks and shoes encourages them to use mathematical language.

Make collections of things that are the same colour, shape, size.

Can they spot the odd one out from a group of items?

Useful websites

Sumdog

Topmarks

[BBC](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/numeracy) Bitsized