

St Francis Primary First Steps in Maths



Here are some easy fun ideas to
try with your child.

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 awareness
- Answer your son or daughter's maths questions
- Give lots of praise
- 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, colour and size
- Sorting toys into one box and books into 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 building 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

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', 'thick' and 'thin' mean
- There are plenty of opportunities for this in everyday life from buying clothes to looking at buildings and trees of all which show just how much maths is all around

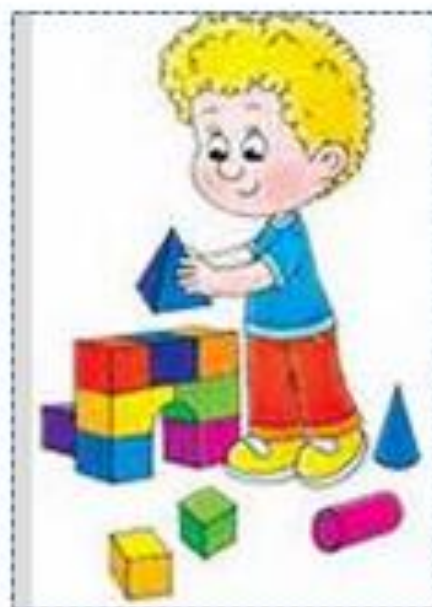


Shaping up to Maths

Look at building 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



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 next steps in maths when school starts in August.

