

Words that will help to give your young child 'maths sense';

- up, down, above, below
- high, low, over, under
- in, out, inside, outside, behind, in front
- right, left, near, far away
- forwards, backwards, rising, falling
- slow, fast, stop, start, roll, slide
- wide, narrow, thick, thin
- long, short, big, little, wee, huge, tiny
- straight, curved, line
- many, few, lots, whole, none, some, all
- full, empty, half full, fraction, quarter
- solid, liquid, hollow
- more, less, the same, equal, greater than
- earlier, now, later, sometime, never, often
- after, before
- yesterday, last night, today, tomorrow
- morning, afternoon, night, evening, day
- pence, pounds, money, too dear!
- coin, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2
- first, second, third, ... last, next
- heavy, light, grams, kilograms, weight
- square, rectangle, triangle, circle
- box, cube, cuboid, sphere, ball, cone
- blue, red, green, sort out
- let's count! (1, 2, 3, 4, ...)
- millilitres, litres, volume, container
- total, add, take away, sum
- centimetres, metres, length
- clock, time, o'clock
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
- minute, hour, day, week, month, year
- noon, midday, midnight
- spring, summer, autumn, winter

Some skills that can help make the first day at school as easy as ABC;

- able to count basic quantities
- join in general conversation at home
- complete simple puzzles eg jigsaws
- play 'make believe', make things, get messy
- asking lots of questions / have active fun outside
- sing / recite songs / make up stories (even if they make no sense)
- tell the difference between past and future / different groups eg cats or dogs
- be sensitive to others feelings and know the difference between right and wrong
- dress and feed themselves (even if they make mistakes), and aware of healthy foods
- able to take turns, share without a fuss and join in group activities with other children

Practical ways to help;

Help your young child be aware of maths around the house when using everyday objects such as cereals, drink containers, prices, measuring (including cooking)

Use the language of maths in everyday conversations (see list given opposite)

Count a pile of money, and show how five 2p's is worth the same as a 10p coin or two 50p's is worth £1 etc

Read the time (often a concept which proves difficult to teach)

Sort items according to size, or shape, or colour, or cost, or weight

Play games that require strategies and make use of dice and/or cards

Ask about their maths at school

Visit web-sites

www.bbc.co.uk/learning

www.infoscotland.com/playtalkread

www.mathsontrack.com

for free downloads such as

- mental agility progressions for P1-S3
- the 'numeracy alphabet' ®
- the stepping stones
- see fast multiplying at levels 1, 2, 3 and 4
- samples of assessments from P2 - P7
- lists of powers and roots at CfE levels 3/4



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