Helping your child with Numeracy

Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom, it can happen anywhere. A child or young person's everyday routine offers many opportunities and experiences to practise and apply their numeracy skills in real and meaningful ways.

What is Numeracy?

Numeracy is about being able to understand and use numbers in a range of situations, for example when solving problems or making decisions in situations involving numbers.

There are many ways that you can build learning activities into everyday routines to support your child's numeracy skills.

Here are some simple ideas to build numeracy skills into everyday activities from early years to primary 7.

Measurement

Your child could..

- Arrange books, toys, cups, in order of size
- Estimate their own height, keep a growing chart
- Measure out ingredients when baking

Mental Calculation

Your child could..

- Count the items in the fridge, before and after taking away.
- On a walk, count how many jumps, steps you make
- Play games that involve calculating scores eg. Bowling, darts, tennis, snooker
- Calculate the food for a party, how many packets, how many in a packet.

Money

Your child could..

- Count the coins in the piggy bank
- Buy from a shop, paying for it themselves
- Work out a budget for looking after a pet
- Calculate the cost of a take-away to be delivered to your home
- Calculate their allowance for the week and how they can earn it
- Play games involving money eg Monopoly

Number

Your child could..

- Recognise the numbers on a clock
- Read numbers on house doors
- Play board games which need a dice
- Identify the number intervals on a set of scales
- Look for fractions and decimal fractions

Information Handling

Your child could..

- Know how to call for the emergency services
- On a journey, follow road signs
- Complete a chart or table of scores/information
- Follow the league tables in their favourite sport
- Follow the instructions for the washing machine and choose which setting to use

Time

Your child could..

- Speak about the changing seasons, day and night
- Point out the time on the clock at certain times eg breakfast, lunch, tea
- Use a timer to cook, do chores, their home-work
- Read and use a bus timetable

There are LOTS more ideas on these links:

http://www.readwritecount.scot/count/

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/supportingnumeracy/index.asp

http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage

http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/

http://nzmaths.co.nz/maths-our-house

http://www.nnparenttoolkit.org.uk/supporting-all-parents

http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths-owl/maths

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/primary_support/

http://nzmaths.co.nz/introductory-video

"Parents are a child's first and most enduring educators, and their influence cannot be overesti-mated."*, Sir Peter Williams 2008*

Numeracy in School

Basic Facts

Basic facts are all the number facts we want children to be able to recall instantly, such as doubles, number bonds to ten and multiplication facts. Building knowledge of basic facts is essential for developing mental agility, and to be able to solve problems using mental strategies.

It is very important that every child builds up a bank of recalled Basic Facts. They need to be given lots of experiences to USE these to solve problems, and develop understanding of how they are using this knowledge within their strategies.

These are the Basic Facts we expect our children to learn although this is just a starting point and by no means a definitive list.

Primary 1

Numbers to 20 —order, counting up and counting down, looking for patterns within 20, recognising the numeral and the word, counting objects, adding to 20, subtracting to 20

Primary 2

Numbers to 50—order, counting up and counting down, looking for patterns within 50, recognising the numerals and the words
Odds and Evens, counting in two's and five's
Adding to 50, Subtracting to 50

Primary 3

Recall number bonds to 20,
Doubles to 20, introduce multiplication by 2,3,4 ,5 and 10, sharing by 2,3,4,5,and 10.
Adding to 100, subtracting within 100

Primary 4

Recall number facts to 100,
Work with numbers to 1000, ordering, count in 50's 100s, 1000s
Recall multiplication and division by 2,3,4,5 and 10, dividing with remainders
Mental strategies for adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing—breaking it down into smaller steps eg. 45 + 93= 40 + 90 + 5 + 3

Primary 5

Recall number facts to 1000,
Work with numbers to 10000, ordering, count in 50's 100s, 1000s
Multiplication and division by 6,7,8,9,and 100, dividing with remainders
Mental strategies including partitioning eg. 27 x 8,
Fractions of, adding fractions

Primary 6 and 7

Work with numbers to 1000000+, ordering, count in 50's 100s, 1000s, 10000's
Recall multiplication and division by 2 –12, dividing with remainders
Mental strategies for adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, percentages and fractions
Converting fractions to decimals to percentages (halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, tenths, twentieths)

For the iPad, check out these in the App store.

- Clarity Innovations Apps from The Math Learning Centre
- Math Slide: Four Apps by Math Adventures
- One billion Educational Charity Apps
- Maths Activity Site Apps
- Doodle Math Apps by EZ Education

Maths Games

Search Google for the following maths games.

* Cool maths Games
* Topmarks Education
* BBC maths Games
* Woodlands maths Zone
* Math Playground
* Kids Math Games