Help your child to:

* find numbers around your home and neighbourhood – clocks, letterboxes, speed signs
* count forwards and backwards (clocks, fingers and toes, letterboxes, action rhymes, signs)
* make patterns when counting "clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4, clap 5…"
* do sums using objects such as stones or marbles e.g. 2 + 3, 4 +1, 5 + 4
* make up number stories – "you have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. There are 4 of them"
* preparing and sharing out food – "two for me and two for you". Ask, "How many for each of us?"
* talking about time – "lunchtime", "story time", "bedtime"
* using words in everyday play like "under", "over", "between", "around", "behind", "up", "down", "heavy", "light", "round", "circle", "yesterday", "tomorrow". You can get library books with these words and ideas in them too

Here's a tip - use lots of mathematics words as your child is playing to develop their understanding of early mathematics (e.g. "over", "under", "first, second, third", "round", "through", "before", "after"). Use the language that works best for you and your child.

* play with water using different shaped containers and measuring cups in the sink or bath
* bake – talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients using words like "how many?" "how much?" "more". Count how many teaspoons of baking soda are needed, how many cups of flour, how many muffin cases
* play dress-ups and getting dressed, use words like "short", "long", and ask questions like "what goes on first?", "what goes on next?", "does it fit?"
* create a ‘sorting box’ with all sorts of ‘treasure’ – bottle tops, shells, stones, poi, toys, acorns, pounamu (greenstone), cardboard shapes, leaves. Ask questions like "how many?", "which is the biggest group?", "which is the smallest?", "how many for each of us?"
* do jigsaw puzzles, play card and board games and build with blocks.

Here's a tip - being positive about mathematics is really important for your child’s learning – even if you didn’t enjoy it or do well at it yourself at school.

* find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood; e.g. find 7, 17 and 27 on letterboxes
* count forwards and backwards starting with different numbers (e.g. 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, then back again)
* make patterns when counting forwards and backwards (e.g. "5, 10, 15, 20 then 20, 15, 10, 5 and 30, 40, 50, 60 or 12, 14, 16, 18, …")
* do addition and subtraction problems by counting forwards or backwards in their heads (e.g.. 8 + 4, 16 – 3)
* use mathematics words during play (treasure hunts, obstacle courses, building huts) - "under', "over", 'between", 'around", "behind", "up", "down', "heavy", "light', 'round", "your turn next", "before", "after", "left" and "right", "square", "triangle" – you can use your first language
* play with big cardboard boxes using words like "inside", "outside"
* play games and do puzzles; e.g. jigsaws, "I spy something that is longer, bigger, smaller than..."
* do water play using different shaped containers and measuring cups
* bake – talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients and how many pieces you need to feed everyone
* dance to music and sing/clap to favourite songs make and play stick games with newspaper rolls play with a pack of cards - make up addition and subtraction problems using numbers to 20 look at a calendar – "how many days/weeks until an event?", "how many days in the month?", "how many weekends?".
* Encourage your child to look for patterns.

Here's a tip - the way your child is learning to solve mathematics problems may be different from when you were at school. Get them to show you how they do it and support them in their learning.

* name the number that is 10 more or 10 less than before or after a number up to 100
* make patterns when counting in groups (skip counting) forwards and backwards, starting with different numbers (e.g. 13, 23, 33, 43…, …43, 33, 23, 13)
* try making different types of patterns by drumming, clapping, stamping, dancing or drawing patterns that repeat
* find out the ages of family
* do addition and subtraction problems in their heads using facts to 20 e.g. 10 + 4, 15 – 7
* use groups of 10 that add to 100 e.g. 50 + 50, 30 + 70.
* telling the time – o’clock, ½ past, ¼ to
* learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables
* repeating and remembering telephone numbers they use a lot
* reading and sharing a book. Ask them questions about numbers in the story – use the number of pages as a way to practise number facts, too
* doing a shape and number search when you are reading a book or looking at art (like carvings and sculpture)
* helping at the supermarket – ask your child to get specific items (medium-sized tin of red beans, 2 litres of milk, 250g of mince).

Here's a tip - talk a lot to your child while you are doing things together.  Use the language that works best for you and your child.

* play games – board games, card games and do jigsaw puzzles
* make your own advertising pamphlet – cut out and sort images to go on it, make pretend money to spend
* grow seeds or sprouts – measure the growth each week
* fold and cut out paper dolls and other repeating shapes
* trace over repeating patterns
* go on a treasure hunt – make a map with clues and see who can get to the treasure first
* both take turns closing your eyes and describing how to get from the front gate to the kitchen, from the kitchen to their bedroom, from home to school
* do timed activities. You hold the watch and they count how many times they can bounce a ball in a minute
* play guess and check games (use different shaped jars) – how many beans, buttons, pegs in the container?
* find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood – phone numbers, clocks, letterboxes, road signs, signs showing distance
* count forwards and backwards (starting with numbers like 998, 999, 1,000, 1,001, 1,002 then back again)
* make patterns when counting – forwards and backwards, starting with different numbers (73, 83, 93, 103… or 118, 108, 98, 88…)
* making lunch or a meal for a party – make sandwiches in different shapes. Can they cut their sandwich in half? Can they cut the other sandwich in half a different way?
* helping at the supermarket – choose items to weigh – how many apples/bananas weigh a kilo? Look for the best buy between different makes of the same items (e.g. blocks of cheese) – check on the amount of sugar or salt per serving
* telling the time – o’clock, ½ , ¼ past
* deciding how much money you will need to put into the parking meter and what time you will need to be back before the meter expires
* thinking about how many telephone numbers they can remember – talk about what they do to help them remember the series of numbers
* reading together – help them look for numbers and mathematics ideas

Here's a tip - mathematics is an important part of everyday life and there are lots of ways you can make it fun for your child.

* play card and board games that use guessing and checking
* look at junk mail – which is the best value? Ask your child what they would buy if they had £10/£100/£1,000 to spend
* do complicated jigsaw puzzles
* cook or bake – use measuring cups, spoons (½ and ¼ teaspoon) and scales
* collect boxes – undo and see if you can make them up again or make it into something else
* make paper darts and change the weight so that they fly differently, work out which is the best design
* play mathematics "I Spy" – something that is ½ a km away, something that has 5 parts hide something from each other and draw a map or hide several clues – can you follow the map or the clues and find it?
* count forwards and backwards (starting with numbers like 10,098, 10,099, 10,100, 10,101 then back again)
* find and read large numbers in your environment e.g. nineteen thousand, three hundred and twenty-three
* learn number pairs to 100 e.g. 81 and what equals 100?
* read car number plates, look at the car’s odometer to see how far you’ve gone
* work out patterns – make codes from numbers.
* making and organising lunch or a meal for a party, including equal sharing of fruit/biscuits/sandwiches/drinks
* helping at the supermarket – choose items to weigh. Look for the best buy between different brands of the same items (breakfast cereal, spreads like jam or honey)
* practising times tables – check with your child or their teacher which times tables you could help your child with
* telling the time e.g., 5 past, 10 past, 20 past, ¼ to, 25 to...
* do complicated jigsaw puzzles
* look through junk mail – find the most expensive and cheapest item advertised or make into strips to make a woven mat
* make a rota for jobs around the house
* plan for a special event on a budget; e.g. afternoon tea for a grandparent, teacher or family friend
* use blocks that fit together to make a model. Draw what it looks like from each side and above. Then draw what they think it looks like from underneath. Once finished, check the underneath of the real object against the drawing
* count forwards and backwards (starting with numbers like these fractions: ¼ , ½ , ¾ , 1, 1¼ , 1½ then back again)
* talk about large numbers in your environment e.g., computer game scores, distances
* talk about the phases of the moon and link these to the best times for fishing/planting
* talk about the patterns in the night sky – summer and winter. What changes and why?
* talk about graphs and tables that are in your local newspapers.
* making dinner at home – look at how many and how much is needed for the people eating (potatoes, sausages). Talk about fractions (half, quarter, fourth) to calculate how much to cook and cooking times
* helping at the supermarket – look for the best buy between different brands of the same item and different sizes of the same item (e.g., toilet paper, cans of spaghetti, bottles of milk)
* looking at the nutrition table on food labels – how much fat, sugar, salt - and deciding on the healthiest choice
* practising times tables – check with your child or their teacher which tables you could help them with.
* cook – make a pizza, working out who likes what toppings, making and cooking it, and making sure the pizza is shared fairly – make a paper or cardboard container to hold a piece of pizza to take for lunch
* plan out the holidays. Look at each day’s fun time, TV time, family time and bedtime
* plan to make bead necklaces and friendship bracelets – calculate the cost of the materials, the length of stringing material
* go on scavenger hunts – make a map with clues and see who can get there first.

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