

Maths activities for Year 1

Some parents have asked for ideas for maths activities to do at home with your children outside of homework. You do not have to do these; they are just a selection of ideas. Feel free to adapt them to make them harder or easier.

These activities will all support your child's learning/understanding of maths concepts – hopefully in fun yet meaningful ways.

Commercial games: snap, beetle drive, snakes and ladders (and the twisted version – start at 100, subtracting your way to 0 – so it's good to slide down snakes and hard work if you go back up a ladder), pairs, dominoes, Rummikub, Battleships – all of these are great for practising skills and sharpening mental maths abilities. Junior Sudoku books with simple 3 x 3 or 4 x 4 grids are good for reasoning.

A useful website is www.ictgames.co.uk which has a great range of maths games to play online. Lots of these are designed for 2 or more players. They are used in school, so don't be surprised if your child has already played some of them.

There are also lots of books that you can buy nowadays, which will have loads more ideas.

Count on and back in ones, twos, fives and tens from any given number – challenge to see how far you can count. Can you describe the patterns? You can also do timed counts.

How many steps is it to ...? (Count your steps as you walk)

How many numbers in a sequence can you write in 30 seconds?

Find out when everyone in the family has their birthday – write them in order.

Whose birthday is on an odd numbered date? Whose is on an even numbered date?

Which day of the week am I thinking of? It is the day before..., after ... etc. Can you say the days of the week in order starting from ...?

Play 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'

Make up number or pattern sequences – challenge someone else to spot the pattern

- can they add the next 3 numbers
- can they draw the next 3 shapes or objects.

Ways of making.... X How many different number sentences can you think of to make the target number

(this can be extended to multiplication and division in due course)

Multiple of 10s speed sign challenge – take it in turns to add up the value of two (or 3) speed limit signs - the person with the higher value gets a point.

e.g. Person 1 spots 20 and 40 (Total 60) Person 2 spots 30 and 40 (total 70) Person 2 scores 1 point.

First to 10 points wins (good for car journeys!)

Total all the numbers you see on road signs on the way to school.

10/20 more - I am 10/20 more than x – what am I? (This can be made easier - 1 or 2 more or harder 30, 40 etc more)

Street number patterns – count the numbers on doors – What is the sequence? What do you think the next number will be? Why do you think that?

Roaming robots – give someone in the family instructions to get round the house – they have to do exactly what they are told! (NB. Do not try this in the kitchen in case there are hot appliances people could knock into)

Play 'Simon Says' (using positional language – e.g. put your left hand on your right shoulder)

Mirrors - stand opposite someone and copy exactly what they do to make a mirror image.

I have 6 coins in my purse – what is the most money I could have? The least? If 3 coins are silver and 3 are copper – how would that change my answers?

I have 5 coins totalling e.g. 23p - what coins could they be? (Make sure that the total you suggest can be made in at least 1 way!)

Make a graph of the coins in a purse (set them out in columns on squared paper) – ask questions such as: Which coin is the most common? How many more 20p coins are there than £1 coins? How many 10p coins are there?

When out shopping ask the children to find out the cost of different items in an aisle. Which are cheaper, Shreddies or Cornflakes etc – how do you know? What fruit could I buy for less than £1?

If your child is becoming more confident with money, let children select coins to pay for small items at the corner shop or newsagent e.g. for newspaper, sweets or milk. Encourage them to start counting on from the larger coins first e.g. 50p 20p 10p 2p - 50, (60), 70, 80, 82 - 82p

Scissors paper stone – (stone blunts scissors, scissors cut paper, paper wraps stone). Best of 5 (or however many

rounds you want to play) – this doesn't seem like maths, but is good for thinking skills and development of strategies for game play.

Draw a line down the centre of squared paper (or crossed lines to make more difficult) – colour in a symmetrical pattern

Symmetry spotter – how many can you find? E.g. on a walk – ladybirds, butterflies, faces, etc

Shapes around us – what shapes can you see? (E.g. bricks - rectangles, chicken wire fence – hexagons, road sign – circle and for 3d shapes, tinned tomatoes – cylinder, ice cream - cone!)

Cut a sandwich in half, eat half, then cut the half into quarters, eat a quarter and so on – how many times will you be able to cut the part that is left in half?

Measuring – before you recycle bottles and containers – why not line them up in order of size – look at the labels.

See how many containers of different shapes you can find that hold exactly 500ml or 1 litre.

When baking etc. ask the children to weigh out the ingredients.

How tall is everyone in the family? How will you measure them? Who is tallest, shortest etc?

Sorting: Put about 8 different objects onto a tray – sort them into two groups. Can you explain how you have sorted them? Could you sort them in a different way? Or challenge someone to say how they think you have sorted some objects!!

Have fun!