

🍀 **Clover Hill** 🍀

Primary School

Reception



Helping your child
with mathematics

We have produced this leaflet in response to a number of requests from parents over the years for advice about supporting their child with mathematics at home. We hope that you find it useful but please do not hesitate to come and see one of us if we can clarify anything or help further.

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and work towards “Early Learning Goals”. There are two of these goals within the mathematics area of learning. We work hard to include lots of learning opportunities into our routines and classroom activities. We aim for children to be able to do the following at the end of their year with us:

Early Learning Goal for Number

Children at the expected level of development will;

- Have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number.
- Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
- Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.

Early Learning Goal for Numerical Patterns

Children at the expected level of development will;

- Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system.
- Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.
- Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens, odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.

Here are some ideas that you may like to try at home to help your child develop their understanding and confidence in mathematics.

Talk, Talk, Talk! Understanding the composition of numbers

Ask your child what they can see? It might be 4 carrots on their plate, do they see 2 and 2 or 3 and 1 or 1 and 1 and 1 and 1? It could be 3 ducks on a pond, do they see 2 and 1 or 1 and 1 and 1? Talking about what your child can see can help enormously with understanding the composition of numbers.

Introduce counting into daily life around the house.

Count the stairs to bed, sweets in a packet, count the number of seconds it takes your child to fetch something from another room. Halving sweets with siblings and counting to check that each person has the same amount.

Use playing cards

Work with your child to place numbers in order then ask them to close their eyes as you remove a card. Which one is missing?



Have a game of snap to help your child look carefully at the shapes of numbers and develop their visual perception. Each turn over a card and the player with the larger number keeps both cards.

Build

Use building blocks to make towers. Whose tower is taller / shorter? How many blocks can you balance before they fall down? If I add one more block, how many will I have? Talk about the shapes which do and do not roll. Why is this?



Play Board Games

Rolling a die and counting the correct number of spaces around a board is a great starting point for addition. Use the opportunity to discuss which number is smaller / larger.



Bake!

Working with your child to follow simple recipes is great maths practice. The counting and measuring is maths in a real life context and tasting the finished result makes it even more enjoyable!



Money

Children love to empty the coins out of a grown-up's purse and to play shops and this presents lots of fantastic opportunities to develop maths skills. Encourage your child to sort the coins into 1p, 2p etc piles. Can your child identify each coin? How many 5p coins do I have? Which coin do I have most of? Count in 2s to find the total of the 2p coins in the purse. Make up a given amount to pay for items out of the kitchen cupboard using 1p coins, moving on to 2p coins and then a combination of them both.

Time

Talk about important times of the day with your child. Point out bedtime etc on the clock and use the language of time e.g. hour, minute etc. Challenge your child to carry out certain timed tasks e.g. how many times can you run around the garden in 1 minute?

Reading numbers

Encourage your child to spot numbers in the environment on road signs, buses, door numbers etc.

Writing numbers

Just as with writing letters, we encourage child to use the correct formation when writing numbers. When writing numbers at home with your child, please support them to start in the correct place and form the numbers in the following way.

