

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Mathematics is made up of the following aspects:

- Numbers
- Shape, Space and Measures

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures. (EYFS)

Help your child to use mathematical language

- Play alongside your child and model language by describing what your child is doing e.g. “*you made the car go straight ahead and then turn left.*”
- Encourage your child to compare objects and sets of objects e.g. “*that one looks bigger*” or “*how are these shapes different?*” or “*I wonder which group has the most?*”
- Value your child’s spontaneous language e.g. “*that shape has three point bits.*” Extend what your child has said in different words e.g. “*Yes it’s got three corners, it’s called a triangle.*”



Wyndham Park
Nursery School

Mathematics

**Activities for you to try at
home together**

Daily Routines

- At mealtimes, count out plates, forks, and spoons. Talk about the portions of food so children learn about quantity. Cut up food into halves and quarters and introduce your child to these terms
- Dressing e.g. count how many buttons
- Sorting the washing – match pairs of socks, comment on colours, shapes and patterns and talk about the different sizes of the clothes.
- Use tidy up time to encourage sorting skills e.g. cars in the red box, bricks in the blue box.
- Bath time – provide a variety of different sized containers to pour from – talk about full and empty.

Out and about

- Look for numbers and shapes as you walk along the street – on houses, shops, road signs, vehicles
- Shopping – ask your child to count out items. Use mathematical language to describe the tins and packets in the supermarket and comment on the weight of the bags
- At the park, count the number of steps on the slide or as you push your child on the swing.

Games and activities

- Play board games – help your child to recognise the patterns on a dice and to count on
- Playdough – roll out long and short shapes. Make pretend birthday cakes and count how many candles
- Help your child to sort his/her toys e.g. farm animals, lego bricks. Make collections of natural objects e.g. shells, conkers.
- Play games outside – skittles, hopscotch, hide and seek, treasure hunts.
- Involve your child in cooking, a great opportunity to introduce measures.

Stories, songs and rhymes

- Traditional stories such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* always appeal to children. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* teaches sequencing and counting skills. There are many, many others. The website Sparkle Box can give you suggestions.
- Children love number rhymes such as *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and *Five Little Monkeys jumping on the bed*.