



## How to help your child with numeracy ...

Numeracy is the ability to use maths skills and understandings confidently and appropriately to meet the general demands of life at home, work or in other settings.

To be numerate children need to recognise what mathematics to use and how to use it efficiently in many different places beyond the classroom.

Children learn about numeracy through play, observing, exploring and talking about their environment.

Preschoolers play with shapes and jigsaws, notice patterns, use informal measurements and begin to use and recognise some numbers.

They begin to use the language of mathematics to help describe their lives and experiences.

### Strategies to help your child with numeracy

- Encourage your child to notice where maths is used in the world around them.
- Help them develop a confident and positive attitude by involving them in the everyday use of maths.
- Ask your child questions and encourage them to work out answers.
- Extend their understandings and skills in maths by providing them with time to think through everyday problems and discuss possible solutions.

### Pause, prompt, praise

Our aim is to support children so they can complete as much of the task as possible by themselves.

- Give the child your full attention
- Ask the child to explain the task and how they are going to do it.
- Ask them to 'have a go'.
- Wait to see what they do- **PAUSE**
- If they need help, offer prompts- **PROMPT**
- Praise all efforts-**PRAISE**

### Prompting

Prompts are questions, hints or suggestions that help the child solve the problem independently. Prompts often require more than a one word response.

### Drawing on what's known

What do you know about ...?

When have you used something like this before?

Does this remind you of any other problems?

What could you use to help?

### **Making sense by talking and showing**

Tell me about ...

Show me ...

Tell me what you're doing now.

### **Connecting Ideas**

- What do you now know about ...?
- What do you now know that you didn't know before?
- How are these (ideas) the same?
- How are they different?

When could you use ...?

### **Encouraging children to talk about mathematics**

Ask open-ended questions or statements:

How did you work this out?

Tell me more about this one.

What would you do now?

I wonder how you would...

### **Pause and wait for the child to answer.**

#### **Be an active listener:**

Watch the child's face.

Don't interrupt.

Nod, smile and use facial expressions to encourage further responses.

Show interest in any associated written work or constructions.

Give encouraging feedback:

I like the way you...

That was clever to...

Yes, you checked that very carefully.

### **Numeracy for different purposes**

- Cooking with children at home. Talking about different measurements involved in cooking, temperatures, times etc
- Looking at maps when going to different places. Talking about directions, distances etc
- Involve children in counting different things around the house. Maybe how can we count that quicker, by 2s
- Having a visible calendar in the house
- Looking at shapes in the environment
- Relating all mathematics to real life experiences e.g. talking about when would we use our times tables
- Letting children use scales to weigh things
- Applying fractions to different things like cutting up apples, cakes or dividing things into equal groups.
- Playing board games
- Use of estimation