

# Aspley Guise Lower School

*Growing Together, Aiming High*

## Helping your child at home with their maths



**The Golden Rule:** Whatever you do, make sure your children enjoy it.

If they struggle to understand, make mistakes, or get bored: keep calm, make it easier, change the subject, tell them a joke, play football, go to the park .... but please don't get cross or impatient – do not say you were no good at maths when you were at school-you could put them off maths for life.

Actually, making mistakes or getting stuck is a great way to develop our learning skills - make it into a positive rather than a negative. Maths is all about taking risks and trial and error so the act of perseverance is crucial in order to succeed. Getting it wrong is ok!! Trying lots of different strategies is also ok.

Websites to support Maths learning:

<http://nrich.maths.org/>

<http://www.mathplayground.com/>

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/problem-solving>

[Www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

And not forgetting:

[Www.doodlemaths.com](http://www.doodlemaths.com)

This list is not comprehensive. There are many other websites and apps that will support maths.

Remember! Be positive even if you don't feel it.

Ask your child to explain to you how they are doing their maths. (It may be different to the way you were taught)

## Here are a few ideas on how to help your child in Maths:

### The Importance of Counting

A lot of time is now spent on oral maths and counting skills in school every day.

- Practice chanting the number names. Encourage your child to join in with you. When they are confident, try starting from different numbers e.g. 4, 5, 6 and larger numbers for older children. Also try counting backwards. Getting children comfortable with forward and backward number sequence is so important.
- Give your child the opportunity to count objects (coins, pasta, shapes, buttons etc..)
- Encourage them to move each object as they count them.
- Play games that involve counting e.g. snakes and ladders, dice games.
- Coin in a box: Parents drop coins into a box one at a time. Child closes their eyes and then guesses how many coins are in the box. Check your answer by counting together.
- Count things you cannot touch – window panes, jumps, claps, oranges in a bag
- Make mistakes when chanting, counting or ordering numbers. Can your child spot what you have done wrong?
- Counting in 1s, then 2s or 10s, e.g. as you climb stairs, walk to the local shop etc.
- Choose a number of the week e.g. 5. Practice counting in 5's, up to 5 (50, 500, 5 000, 50 000), on from 5, collect groups of 5 items.



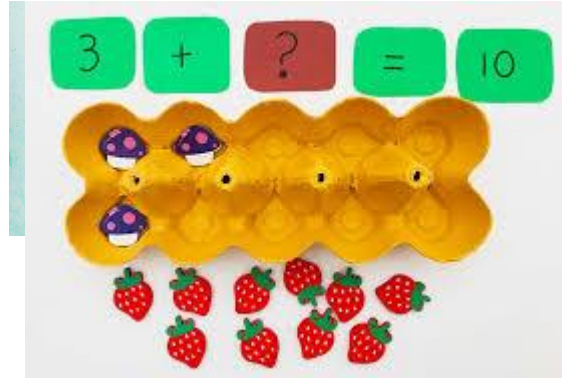
Ask the question: **'The answer is 10 (or any number), what's the question?'**

This is a brilliant activity because: there's no failure; it stimulates thinking about and stretching knowledge of numbers and mathematical relationships; it's good fun

## Practicing Number facts/Mental Maths

It is important children learn number bonds to 10 e.g.  $4 + 6 = 10$  and number bonds to 20 e.g.  $14 + 6 = 20$  and times tables by heart.

- Play 'ping pong' to practice components with your child. You say a number and they reply with how much more is needed to make 10, 20, or 100.
- Encourage your child to answer quickly without counting or using fingers. E.g. make 100 you shout 40 they shout 60.
- Throw two dice. Ask your child to find the total of the numbers (+), the difference between them (-).
- Use a set of playing cards (without the picture cards). Turn over two cards and ask your child to add the numbers. If they answer correctly, they keep the cards. How many cards can they collect in two minutes?
- Play Bingo. Each player chooses five answers (e.g. numbers to 10 to practice simple addition,) Ask a question and if a player has the answer, they can cross it off. The winner is the first player to cross off all their answers.
- Look out for car number plates. What is the number on the plate? What is this to the nearest 10 or 100 or 1000? How many more would you need to reach the next multiple of 10, 100 or 1000?
- One very good idea which is appropriate for any level, so the whole car/bus/train/plane can be involved.
- Practise chanting the number names. Encourage your child to join in with you. When they are confident, try starting from different numbers – e.g. 4, 5, 6... Also try counting backwards.



When faced with a calculation problem, encourage your child to ask...

Can I do this in my head?

Could I do this in my head using drawings or jottings to help me?

Do I need to use a written method?

Also help your child to estimate and then check the answer. Encourage them to ask...

Is the answer sensible?

## Everyday situations

- Comparing objects according to size, weight or capacity, e.g. the longest spoon, the lightest shopping bag, the cup which holds the most, the short-est person, the widest hand, the bottle which is half full.

- Matching and counting when setting the table, preparing food, sharing out food, etc.
- Counting, weighing, measuring capacity and timing when cooking



- Talking about time, referring to the clock at different times throughout the day, (preferably a clock with hands), setting times for certain events.

- Handling small amounts of money when shopping, counting small totals.

- Go shopping with your child to buy two or three items. Ask them to work out the total amount spent and how much change you will get.

- Buy some items with a percentage extra free. Help your child to calculate how much of the product is free.



- Plan an outing during the holidays. Ask your child to think about what time you will need to set off and how much money you will need to take.

- Use a TV guide. Ask your child to work out the length of their favourite programmes. Can they calculate how long they spend watching TV each day / each week?

- Use a bus or train timetable. Ask your child to work out how long a journey between two places should take? Go on the journey. Do you arrive earlier or later than expected? How much earlier/later?

Green Timetable						
Locomotive:		Steam	Diesel	Steam	Diesel	Steam
Tunbridge Wells	Dep.	10:30	11:55	13:25	14:45	16:15
High Rocks	Dep.	10:37	12:02	13:32	14:52	16:22
Groombridge	Dep.	10:46	12:11	13:41	15:01	16:31
Eridge	Arr.	11:00	12:20	13:50	15:10	16:40
Locomotive:		Diesel	Steam	Diesel	Steam	Diesel
Eridge	Dep.	11:15	12:35	14:05	15:25	16:55
Groombridge	Dep.	11:26	12:46	14:16	15:36	17:06
High Rocks	Dep.	11:33	12:53	14:23	15:43	17:13
Tunbridge Wells	Arr.	11:40	13:00	14:30	15:50	17:20

- Help your child to scale a recipe up or down to feed the right amount of people.

- Play card games and board games as much as possible with your children. Not only is it great family time but we learn about winning and losing and also about probability.

These are just a few ideas to give you a starting point. Try to involve your child in as many problem-solving activities as possible. The more 'real' a problem is, the more motivated they will be when trying to solve it.