

1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Children learn and develop through playing, exploring, being active and being asked questions to help their thinking. We understand every child is different and children do not grow and develop at the same rate. To find out more about the EYFS, visit [www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents). If you do not have access to a computer, there are public computers that can be used, free of charge, in Village Green Children's Centre.

One important area of learning and development is Mathematics. The EYFS helps us to understand how best to teach children about number, space and shape.

I have attached some ideas for helping your child to learn mathematics at home, I hope you find the ideas fun and helpful.

Kind Regards,

Julie Church  
Deputy Head

# Ideas for helping your child learn more about numbers, shape and space

## In the street

- Noticing bus numbers
- Number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.
- Comparing door numbers
- Counting - how many lampposts on the way to school?



## Doing the washing

- Counting in 2s - matching shoes
- Sorting by colour and size.
- Matching/pairing up socks.
- Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order.

## Time

- What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?
- Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.
- Count up and/or down 5/10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
- Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number is missing?

## Food!

- Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces? Can you cut it into triangles?
- Setting the table. Counting the right number of plates etc. How many more do we need?
- Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks. Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?
- Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.
- Positional language at meal time : what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc? (next to, under, over, side by side etc)

## Going shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights - which is heavier

## Measuring

- Are you taller than a ...?
- Marking height on the wall.
- Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the sofa? How long is the table? Which is longer?
- Who has the biggest hands in our family?
- How many steps from the gate to the front door?



## Shapes

- Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.
- Cut out shapes from coloured paper/ newspaper and arrange into pictures.
- Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house (windows etc), a circle ...

## Playdough

Here's a simple recipe:

**1 cup of plain flour**

**1 cup of water**

**1 tablespoon cooking oil**

**2 teaspoons cream of tartar**

**Half a cup of salt**

**food colouring and essences (optional)**

*Put all ingredients in a large saucepan and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in cling film or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.*



Then ....

- Make numerals and shapes
- Sort shapes into groups, or order by size
- Make long and short wiggly snakes.

## Games

- Putting cards into piles
- Jigsaws (you can make your own by cutting up a magazine picture)
- Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)
- Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
- Adding numbers on two dice.
- Bingo, with numbers or shapes
- Hopscotch

## Number rhymes and songs

*Eg: 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed*

*One fell off and bumped his head*

*Mummy called the doctor and the doctor said*

*"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"*

*4 little monkeys jumping on the bed ...*

Your child can teach you more or enjoy this website together: <http://www.nurseryrhymes.org/numbers.html>

## Books

