

Mathematics in Nursery: How you can help at home.



In the street

- Recognising 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 down 10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
 - Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was 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.
- Setting the timer.
- Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc?



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Going shopping

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

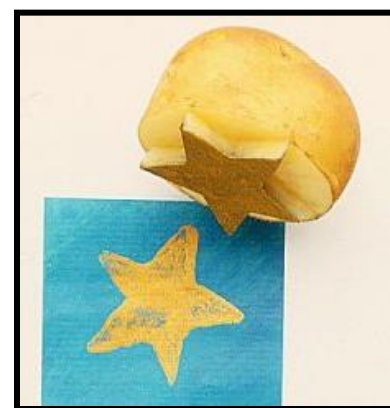


Measuring

- Are you taller than a ...?
- Marking height on the wall.
- Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the couch? 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 clingfilm 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.

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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



Here are some of the number rhymes and songs that we sing in Nursery

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 ...



Five little speckled frogs sat on a special log eating some most delicious grubs, yum yum!
One jumped into the pool where it was nice and cool then there were four green speckled frogs. Glub, glub!
Four little specked frogs...

One, two, three, four five once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go? Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite? This little finger on my right. Ouch!

Find four corners, find four corners.
Sides the same, sides the same.
Put them all together, put them all together.
Squares my name, squares my name.

Round and round the circle. Draw one in the air.
Stop look and find one. Circles are everywhere