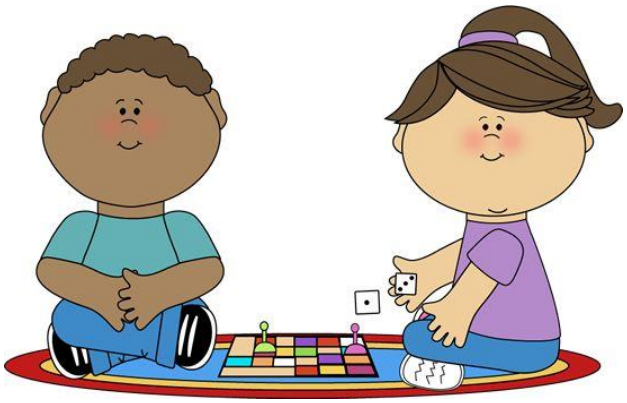
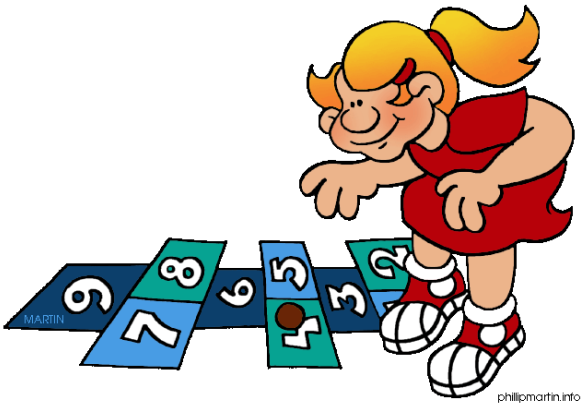
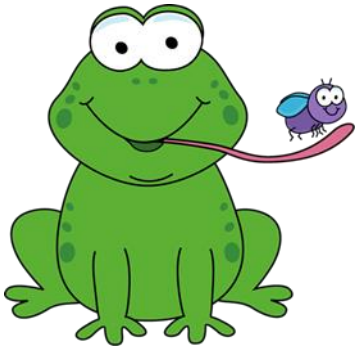
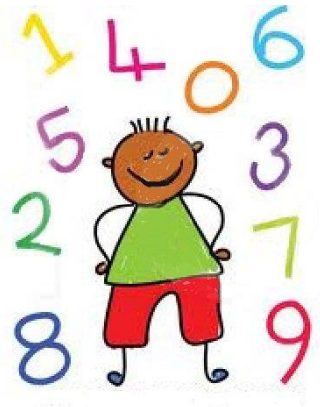
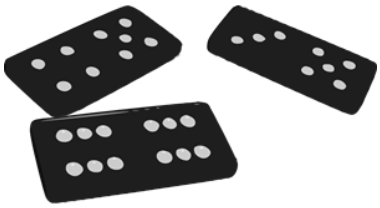
Helping your child with Maths at home





Whilst children learn about numbers and maths at school, there are also lots of ways that you can support your child at home. It doesn't have to be by doing pages of sums or working through text books – there are lots of fun activities and games you can enjoy together as well as including maths in your everyday routines!

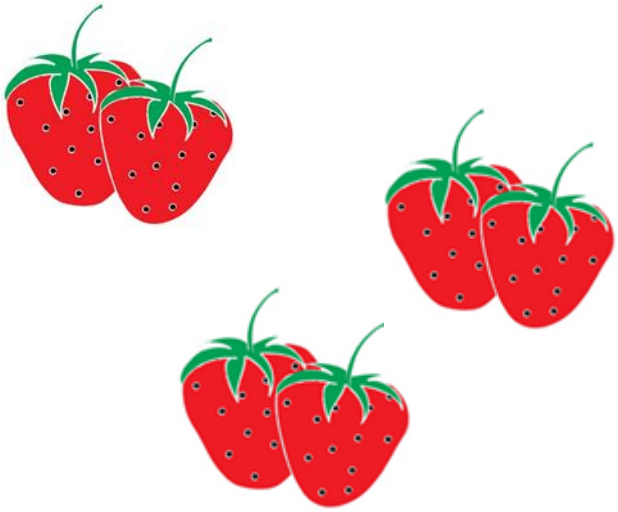
Here are a few ideas to help you…

	Counting songs provide a fun way for your child to develop numeracy skills from an early age. Here are some of YR's favourites: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive", "Five enormous dinosaurs", "Five little speckled frogs", "One, two buckle my shoe", "Monkeys on a bed" and many more!
Children can count anything! Pennies, buttons, pasta, trees, cars, building bricks, steps, apples – encourage them to count things wherever they are! Give them mini-tasks at the supermarket, e.g. putting 6 carrots in a bag; 3 tins of beans, etc. How much would one more be? One less? What about two more or less? Are 6 cucumbers more than 6 tomatoes? How do you know?	
	Play number games with cards, dominos and board games – try to encourage them by joining in yourself! They could even create their own games. Don't forget that we have maths games which you are welcome to borrow for a week at a time.

Let children sort the washing! Matching and counting pairs of socks is a great way of practising odd and even numbers, counting in twos and the 2 times table and means it is one less job for you!
(Y2 children are expected to know the 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables by the end of the year)

Look at the pattern of house numbers as you walk along – are they odd or even numbers? What house number will be next? How do you know?

In Year 1 and 2, the children begin to learn their 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables. Fruit can be grouped and counted, children can count the biscuits from a packet in twos as they put them in the biscuit barrel, and so on. Pose questions such as; There are five people in our family. If we have 2 carrots each, how many will we eat altogether?
I have 12 strawberries. If I share them between you and your two friends, how many will you get each?



Money can also be very motivating! Real coins are the best! Give your children a jar of coins to sort by the different value coins.

- Find the biggest coin. Is it worth the most?
- Find the smallest coin. Is it worth the least?
- Put them in order of value.
- Use 2p, 5p and 10p coins to support learning the times tables.
- How many different ways can you make the same total of 46p?
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Did you know? Becoming familiar with **number bonds** is such an important skill! By the end of **YR** children will be expected to show different ways of making numbers up to 5, for example a group of 3 and a group of 2, *or* a group of 1 and a group of 4.
By the end of **Y1**, children are expected to know number bonds to 10 and to 20, and by the end of **Y2** they need to be very confident with bonds to 20, to recall the related subtraction facts and to be able to use them to generate number bonds to 100.

Create a shop! Allow children to make price tags for different items around the home and use real money to play at being the shop keeper! I'd like a teddy for 12p and a tin of beans for 10p – how much will that cost? If I give you 50p, how much change will I get?

'Supercalifrajalisticexpealidoutius'
How many letters has this word got?
If the vowels cost 5p and the consonants cost 10p, how much would the word be worth? In the same way, how much is your child's name worth?
How many words can you write for one pound?

Play 'I'm thinking of a Number'. Begin by giving clues such as "My number is more than 50 but less than 100; it is an odd number; It is two more than 37, etc"
As your child becomes more confident, they can try to find out by asking questions eg. Is it odd or even? A multiple of 5? More or less than 30? Etc. A fun game to play while driving in the car, walking to school… just about anywhere in fact!

Help your child to learn to tell the time. Lend them your watch. Can you tell me when it is 2 o'clock?
Can you tell me how long it takes for us to walk from our house to grandma's?
You can play on the computer for 30 minutes. Can you tell me when the 30 minutes are up?
Play games like:
'What's the Time Mr Wolf'?
(By the end of Y1 children are expected to be able to tell the time to half past the hour,
By the end of Y2 children should be able to tell the time to five minute intervals.)

Buy your child a pocket diary or calendar and help them plan out a daily timetable for their week. Write in the times of activities on the days of the week.
How many days/ weeks until your birthday/ Christmas/ our holiday?

<table>
<tr><td>What can your child do in exactly one minute?
Hop on one leg?
Tidy their toys away?
Clear the table?
Stare without blinking?
Count the seconds in their head?</td><td>  </td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Look at the three digits on a car's number plate (928).
• What's the largest/ smallest number you can make? (982/ 289)
• What is the total if you add the numbers together?
Count up in tens – 928, 938, 948…</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>Do some cooking!
Let your child help you weigh the ingredients they need in grams and kilograms. Practise doubling by asking questions such as "If we wanted to make Grandad and Grandma a cake too, what are the total ingredients we would need?" and halving by asking "If I only want to make 10 buns rather than 20, what ingredients would I need?"</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>Peel an orange.
• Divide it into segments. Count how many there are.
• Eat one piece. How many do you have left?
• Eat half of the segments. How many pieces did you eat?</td></tr>
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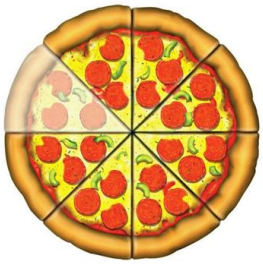
Look for shapes all around you and encourage your child to name and describe them. Can you find any objects that are cubes? Spheres? How many circles can you see in on the sides (faces) of the can?	  
	Practise **fractions** by cutting pizza, fruit or sandwiches into halves, quarters and thirds. Is there a different way that I could cut my sandwich into quarters?
Some children are better at mental calculations or working things out in their head, than others. If your child finds this difficult, continue to be positive and praise them for what they can do and keep on practising with them.	

Maths is all around us and we're using it every day! You will probably already be doing some of these mathematical activities and practising your child's numerical skills without even thinking about it!

The most important thing is to make learning maths FUN!