Knowing how to help your child with their Maths can be difficult:
Where do you start?
What do you talk about?
Disliking Maths from your time at school
How do they teach it at school now?

This guide shares a few tips and tricks to help you help your child with their Maths at home. We hope you'll find it useful!

KS1

Year 1 tips for success

1. Have fun with maths

Play games that involve numbers, such as bingo, dice, card games and board games. Play 'Guess My Shape' – you think of a shape, and your child asks you questions in order to guess the shape. You can only answer 'yes' or 'no'.

2. Practice number skills

As your child's understanding and knowledge of number develops, ask them to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. Ask them to sort objects, making groups of 3, 4, 5 or 6 things. Then ask them to make '8' in as many ways as they can (e.g. 4 and 4; 5 and 3; 2 and 6). Play matching games with number fridge magnets and objects. Match the fridge magnet to the correct number of things (e.g., the '8' magnet with 8 objects).

3. Measure up

Help your child to practice using a ruler for drawing straight lines and measuring. Make a picture using straight lines. Help your child to hold the ruler carefully as they draw. Play 'How Long?' or 'How wide?'. Work together to measure the length or height of everyday objects in the house (in metres or centimetres). Point out the starting and finishing number on the ruler and read the measurement together. Help your child line the object up with the 0 on the ruler or tape when they measure.
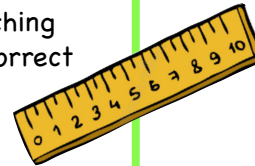
Year 1

Begin to learn: x2, x5, x10

Times Table Timeline

What times tables do each year group learn?

Year 2

Continue to learn: x2, x5, x10

Begin to learn: x 3

General tips for all KS1 children

Draw pictures

This works first of all because many children enjoy drawing and secondly because it gives a physical representation of the addition. Urge your child to keep the drawings small and basic (otherwise you'll be there all day!).

Look at number lines and 100 squares

At school, children in Key Stage 1 will be using number lines and number squares (or 100 squares) regularly. Depending on their learning style some will find it more beneficial than others, but it's certainly worth a try.

Useful Websites

For them:

Purple Mash - Lots of games

https://www.purplemash.com/sch/stmarysgl8

Topmarks - plenty of games!

https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=maths

BBC Bitesize - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zjxhfg8

For times tables - timestables.co.uk

For you:

The **Oxford Owl** website has plenty of guidance for how you can help your child at home:

https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/maths

Year 2 tips for success

1. Use maths in everyday life

Build your child's confidence in mathematics by talking about and using maths together. You could measure ingredients for recipes together, using scales to do so. You could look at the clock together: 'If the party is at 5 o'clock we need to leave in half an hour. That'll be half past 4.' You could talk about how much things cost, paying and getting change when you go shopping.

2. Think about maths

As well as encouraging your child to see how maths is used in everyday life, encourage them to think about how they are using number. Ask your child to explain their thinking when they work out an answer: 'How did you know that? What did you do?' 'Prove it!'

3. Practice times tables

We start with the 2, 5 and 10 times tables including the related division facts e.g. they need to know that $6 \times 5 = 30$ but, what is $30 / 5$? They will then move to more difficult ones in Y3. You can help your child by showing them real-life examples of a times table. For example, a muffin tin will normally have four rows of three muffin cups each, showing the multiplication 4×3.

4. Practice rapid re-call

In Key Stage 1 learning number facts is a principal focus. For example, children are expected to learn number bonds to ten and then 20 (e.g. $7 + 3 = 10$, $17 + 3 = 20$ etc.) Support your child by reciting the possible combinations together. Also explain that you can always swap the number order around when it comes to addition, so if $6 + 4 = 10$ so does $4 + 6$. They need to work on solving the bonds with rapid recall.