Maths at Key Stage 2
How to Help at Home

The Golden Rule
Make it fun!

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Giving children the opportunity to apply their maths learning to everyday situations makes it more relevant and stimulating.



Maths in Everyday Life

- Cooking

Measure weight, capacity , time and temperature.
Read scales on equipment such as weighing scales, measuring jugs, timers and thermometers. Talk about how to work out what the scale is going up in.
Scale a recipe up or down to feed a number of people eg. Convert a recipe for four people to a recipe for six people.

- DIY

Involve them in measuring and calculating how much material is needed for a purpose eg. wood for shelves or fabric for curtains. Help them to use tape measures or rulers correctly. Encourage estimating before they measure and compare measurements in metric and imperial units.

- Time

Reading clock times on both analogue and digital clocks.
Talking and asking questions about the time eg. How long is it until lunchtime? The journey will take us 2 ½ hours what time should we leave? Use bus or train timetables to calculate how long a journey might take. Use a stopwatch to time how long it takes to do everyday tasks, estimating first.

- Money

Work out total costs, calculate change, check receipts. Work out prices of sale items eg. How much will it be if it is 20% off? Manage pocket money, saving for things.

Games and Activities

- Card games.
- Any games that involve calculating scores such as scrabble, monopoly, bowling, cricket.
- Games that involve strategic thinking and/or logic eg. draughts, chess.
- Play ‘guess my shape’. You think of a shape and your child asks you questions to work out what it is, you can only answer with yes or no.
- Hunt for right angles in the environment, can they spot angles that are smaller or larger than a right angle?

Mental Activities

- Times Tables Children need to know the times tables facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of Y4. Look for patterns like odd and even numbers, work out related division facts.
- Factors Can they work out and then recall the factors of a number eg. all the numbers that can be multiplied to make 18?
- Use number cards to practise addition and subtraction facts and multiplication and division facts.
- Open ended activities give children a real opportunity to apply their maths knowledge. Ask them questions such as ‘The answer is 25 what is the question?’ How many different numbers can you make using 3 and 6 ?