Support your child with maths at home

Try to make maths as much fun as possible - games, puzzles and jigsaws are a great way to start. It's also important to show how we use maths skills in our everyday lives and to involve your child in this. Identifying problems and solving them can also help your child develop maths skills. If you see him or her puzzling over something, talk about the problem and try to work out the solution together.

Don't shy away from maths if you didn't like it at school. Try to find new ways to enjoy the subject with your child.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy maths:

- Point out the different shapes to be found around your home.
- Take your child shopping and talk about the quantities of anything you buy.
- Let your child handle money and work out how much things cost.
- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates.

Number games

Roll two dice. Make two-digit numbers, e.g. if you roll a 6 and 4, this could be 64 or 46. If you haven't got two dice, roll one dice twice. Ask your child to do one or more of the activities below.

- ♦ Count on or back from each number in tens.
- ♦ Add 19 to each number in their head. (A quick way is to add 20 then take away 1.)
- ♦ Subtract 9 from each number. (A quick way is to take away 10 then add back one.)
- ♦ Double each number.
- ♦ Ask your child to find the total of the numbers (+), the difference between them (-) or the product (x). Can they do this without counting?
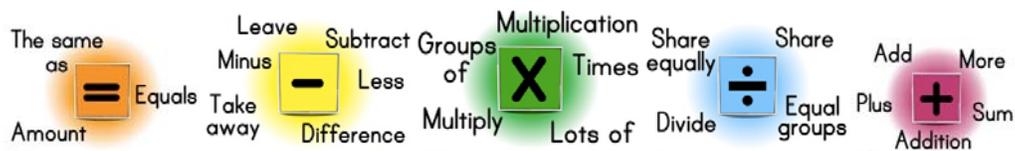
- ♦ Play 'ping pong' to practise complements with your child. You say a number. They reply with how much more is needed to make 10. You can also play this game with numbers totalling 20, 100 or 1000. Encourage your child to answer quickly, without counting or using fingers.
- ♦ Use a set of playing cards (no pictures). Turn over two cards ask your child to add or multiply the numbers. If they answer correctly, they keep the cards. How many cards can they collect in 2 minutes?
- ♦ Play Bingo. Each player chooses five answers (e.g. numbers to 10 to practise simple addition, multiples of 5 to practise the five times tables). Ask a question and if a player has the answer, they can cross it off. The winner is the first player to cross off all their answers.
- ♦ Give your child an answer. Ask them to write as many addition sentences as they can with this answer (e.g. 10 =   +). Try with multiplication or subtraction.
- ♦ Give your child a number fact (e.g. 5+3=8). Ask them what else they can find out from this fact (e.g. 3+5=8, 8-5=3, 8-3=5, 50+30=80, 500+300=800, 5+4=9, 15+3=18). Add to the list over the next few days. Try starting with x fact as well.