

Early maths tips

- Look for numbers when you go for a walk/drive or look out the window. Talk about house numbers, car number plates, the numbers on the tv remote etc.
- Look for 2D and 3D shapes around the house or when out and about. Build models or pictures using empty packaging or paper shapes and talk about the shapes used.
- Get your child using words like 'longer', 'shorter', 'taller', 'heavier', 'lighter', 'full' and 'empty'. Talk about things you see in the world around you.
- Sing counting songs, such as '10 Green Bottles', '1, 2, Buckle My Shoe' and '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive'. Singing songs is a good way for children to become familiar with counting. Don't worry if they choose the same songs again and again!
- Read books and talk about what your child can see on each page. Count objects on the page. Look at the page numbers and say them together.
- Count together as often as you can, as well as letting your child see and hear you counting. Practise chanting numbers and, as your child's confidence grows, start from different numbers – 5, 6, 7, etc. Count real objects – your child's toy cars, pencils, shoes, or the number of stairs in your house. Don't worry if your child remembers the answer – they can count to check!
- Encourage your child to touch or pick up each object as they count it. Ask your child to help you sort cutlery or laundry, counting as you sort. When you go out for a walk, count your footsteps, the number of cars or houses you see etc.
- Have fun exploring numbers in sand/flour/rice/foam with a stick, on the pavement with chalk or on sheets of paper with paints/crayons/pencils/felt tips. Try holding your child's finger and forming the number in the air. All these activities can help your child to become more familiar with numerals and enjoy themselves at the same time!