



## **Stealth Maths: Tips for Improving Our Children's Numeracy**

- 1) Help your child to see that Maths is an essential part of everyday life, from telling the time to measuring out the ingredients for a favourite recipe.
- 2) Look out for 'Stealth Maths' opportunities in whatever your child is currently interested in – it could be anything from working out the number of blankets needed to wrap up a T-Rex to measuring how much a plant grows over the course of a week in the garden or on the kitchen windowsill.
- 3) Use games to even up the power balance and keep children engaged for longer. If they can genuinely beat us sometimes, then they are more likely to stick with it (rather than a more formal learning situation where s/he may well feel that we already have all the answers and are testing them).
- 4) Competitive games are a great way to get children involved in adding or subtracting, such as adding up scores and subtracting the highest from the runner up to find out the margin of victory!
- 5) Games like boules are great for children to practise measuring distances, such as between their boule and the jack – they could use a tape measure or something as simple as their own footstep length.
- 6) Monopoly works well for helping children to learn monetary denominations and to practise working out which combination of notes they need to buy properties / superhero bases / whatever your monopoly theme might be!
- 7) Darts (magnetic or Velcro ones are safest for young children) are a great way for children to practise addition, subtraction and number combinations to work out what they need to throw next to win the game.
- 8) Provide informal, fun opportunities for children to practise writing numbers such as keeping score in a game they like.
- 9) Building games such as Lego and Duplo are great ways to encourage children's understanding and organisation of 3D shapes and patterns.
- 10) CBeebies shows like Numberblocks and websites such as [mathsrockx.com](http://mathsrockx.com) offer fun and engaging content to support children's numeracy. During Lockdown, BBC Bitesize are providing Maths support around foundation concepts such as number bonds to help parents support children's learning too.
- 11) Praise your child whenever s/he is trying with Maths, even if mistakes are being made. (Praise the effort, not the outcome; otherwise s/he may worry more about making mistakes and not risk trying in the first place!)
- 12) Our children rapidly pick up on our own feelings about Maths. Even if you feel that Maths isn't a great strength for you, model an attitude of interest and enquiry and your child will begin to follow suit. Show them that it's OK to make mistakes and to have another go.