Top Tips for Practising

Maths

(Ages 3 - 4)

Maths for 3 - 4 Year Olds

There are lots of practical and easy ways you can encourage your child to develop their maths skills every day.

With children aged three to four, you could practise **number recognition** up to five, discuss **real-world** maths problems such as 'how many apples do I need if both you and I want one?', explore **2D shapes** and point out **simple patterns**. **Positional language** (e.g. 'the television is in front of the sofa', 'the bag is under the table') is also good to develop at this age.

These top tips are here to give you some ideas on how you could explore these areas further.

Please remember, this is not a checklist - it is here to guide you and your child in a **fun and beneficial** way.

Quick Ways to Practise Maths:

Use mathematical language in everyday speech, such as, "There are one, two, three buttons on your coat!" or "Our book has a rectangular face." Remember, faces are the flat surfaces of a 3D shape.

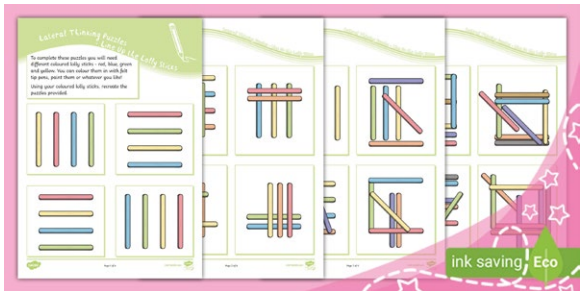
Count everything: cars on the road, books on the shelf or sausages on a plate!

Point out numbers anywhere you are - on car number plates, houses or prices in the shops.

Over 2020 and 2021, a new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (or framework) was released and became statutory for all childminders, nurseries and reception classes. Further updates have been made to the Statutory Framework and Development Matters documents in 2023/2024. These guides, though based on some of the milestones laid out by the updated framework, are designed as general guidance and not a solid indication of what is taught in a formal school or nursery setting.

For more information about the new framework reforms, you can use these resources:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (Official Document)**
- **Development Matters (Official Document)**



Lateral Thinking Puzzles – Line Up the Lolly Sticks

In, up, under, on, besides, between, behind, in front – incorporate terms like these in everyday conversations, such as, "Your shoes are under the chair." or "Lunch is on the table."

Add foam or sponge numbers to the bath and ask your child to put them in order.

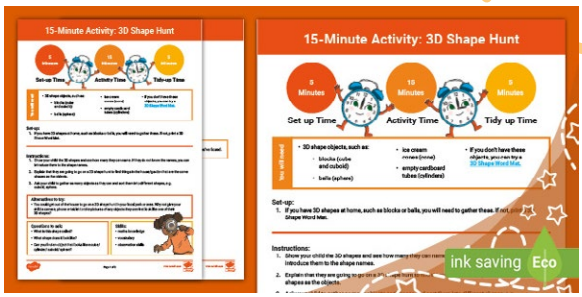
Get creative painting with homemade stamps to make different shapes, such as:

- a sponge for a rectangle
- half a potato for an oval
- bottom of a cup for a circle

Make patterns with items you find in the garden or on a walk, then ask your child to continue the pattern: stick, leaf, stick, leaf...

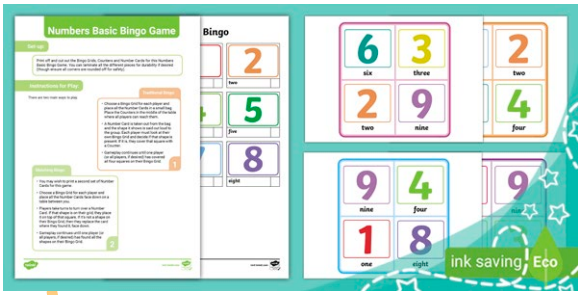
Play with building blocks and discuss the properties of each shape, e.g. "This cube has square faces and they each have four sides."

Collect a group of objects, such as pencils or small toys, then ask your child to find a certain amount of objects from the group, for example, "Please can you find three pencils?"



15-Minute Activity: 3D Shape Hunt

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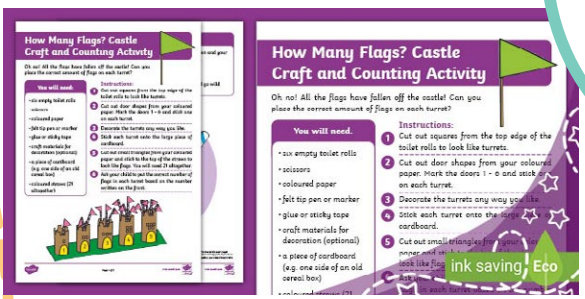
Numbers Basic Bingo Game



I Spy Numbers to 10 Activity Pack

Play 'Simon Says' using commands like, "Simon says stand **next** to the tree." or "Simon says put your hands **behind** your back."

Create fruit skewers in patterns and encourage your child to make their own or complete yours, e.g. apple, orange, apple, orange...



How Many Flags? Castle Craft and Counting Activity

Play 'I Spy' while at home or out and about. Change the category to develop your child's maths skills, such as shapes, numbers, positional language or quantity e.g. "I spy with my little eye three birds in a tree."



Superhero Size Ordering Maths Game

Go on a number scavenger hunt! Walk around the neighbourhood and try to locate numbers in order to 10 ("Number 1 is on our front door, number 2 is on the car on the driveway and number 3 is on the neighbour's house.").

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These recipes may involve the use of knives, hot water and kitchen appliances. It is your responsibility to assess risks and ensure the activity is safe for those participating. We will not be held responsible for the health and safety of those participating and cannot accept any liability. It is your responsibility to ensure you are fully aware of the allergies and health conditions of anyone making or consuming these products. Children should be carefully supervised by a responsible adult at all times, especially when using any sharp items such as knives or graters or when near a heat source. It is the responsibility of supervising adults to ensure the safety of children in their care.