

## **Maths as part of the EYFS**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework which we follow at Kindergarten. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. The EYFS states that: 'Children must be supported in developing their understanding of Mathematics, in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about their developing understanding. They must be provided with opportunities to practise these skills and to gain confidence and competence in their use'.

## **Enjoying Maths through play**

Play is the natural way in which children learn. It is the process through which children explore, investigate, recreate and come to understand their world. Play is an activity in which everything that a child knows and can do is practised or used to make sense of what is new. We place great importance on learning through play at Kindergarten.

## **Role of the Adult**

The quality of children's play is greatly influenced by the adults around them. Adults can provide materials and encouragement and open the door to new activities and learning. The role of the adult at Kindergarten is to support, enhance or extend play.

## **How we promote maths development at Kindergarten**

(These are just some of the things we do!)

### **Shape, Space and Measure**

- We use sand to develop mathematical concepts and language, e.g. heavy, light, empty, full, big and little
- We make patterns using natural materials.
- We explore play dough which helps to develop mathematical language e.g. short, long, fat, thin as well as make shapes of different dimensions including 2D and 3D.
- The children have free access to different sized blocks which can help to develop an understanding of weight and dimensions.
- Tidying toys away allows children to sort into different sizes and colours.
- We use a sand timer to show the children how long they have left to play before tidy up time as well as a sand timer to limit time spent on the computer.
- We use a variety of cookery equipment for weighing and measuring ingredients.

## Numbers

- We enjoy stories and rhymes which have a mathematical element, e.g. 5 little speckled frogs and 5 little men on a flying saucer. Using rhymes can also help develop your Childs awareness of sequencing.
- We count for practical reasons such as counting the children before we go outside or to the hall (the children are encouraged to count along).
- We have number based books available for free access in the book area.
- We play games which relate to number order such as hopscotch and 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'

## Maths ideas you can use at home

Maths is everywhere. With the support of parents, children can grasp many mathematical concepts through their play. Children will begin to:

- know and understand early maths language of measurement, shapes, spaces, positions, early numbers, order and patterns
- know the sequence of numbers
- begin to understand positional words, e.g. in, on, outside
- show an awareness of time
- be aware of shapes in their environment
- acquire new vocabulary
- learn number rhymes and songs, e.g. one, two, buckle my shoe etc.

Young children have many mathematical experiences in their home environment. For example they:

- learn about money as they go shopping with parents
- become aware of numbers as they count the stairs to bed
- start to understand the concept of time as they become familiar with the routine of their day

A child's daily life offers many practical opportunities to learn about number, shape, space, sorting and matching. For instance:

- setting places at the table – a cup for me, a cup for you
- helping to sort the washing, matching socks, big shirt / small shirt
- tidying up – putting similar items together
- matching lids to saucepans