Counting

- Practise counting and chanting number names. (Start counting from different numbers). Count in intervals other than 1. E.g. in 2's 10's 5's, odd or even numbers, forwards and backwards. Choose a number then add 10, e.g. 2, 12, 22, 32, etc.
- Sing number rhymes.
- Count things you can not touch or see. E.g. jumps, claps.
- Play games that involve counting. E.g. Snakes and ladders, dice games. You can use 1 dice and then double the number or throw 2 dice and add the numbers together.
- Look for numbers in the environment. Help your child to recognise and name them. Look at house numbers, car number plates, signs, values in the supermarket etc.
- Cut out numbers from newspapers and magazines and help your child to put them in order.
- Make mistakes when counting, chanting, playing games and encourage your child to check and spot the mistakes. Correct these together.
- Choose a number as a focus for the week and practise counting, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing etc using that number.


## Real Life Problems/Problem solving

- Plan an outing. Ask your child to think about how long the journey will take, what time you need to leave and what time you expect to reach your destination. How much money you might spend and to get out the coins that make that amount.
- To tell you the time.
- Use a TV guide and ask you child to work out the length of their favourite TV programme. What time does it start and finish?
- Help your child to use a recipe to make a cake/meal/snack. Encourage them to use and read the scales, weigh the ingredients.
- Go food shopping with your child and encourage them to work out how much food you need to buy for the family. E.g. How many fish fingers will we need to feed the family? (work out how many each person will eat) If there are 10 in a box how many boxes will we need? How many will we have left over?

These are just a few ideas! Try to involve your child in as many 'real life' problems as you can as these types of problems will be of interest to them as they can see a point for their learning and this will also help to motivate them.


- Find out the number facts your child is learning about. Try to practice these for a few minutes each day using a range of mathematical vocabulary.
- Have a fact of the day. Pin it up around the home. Practise reading it in different voices. Ask your child at various times in the day to recall the number fact.
- Play 'ping pong' using number facts. You say a number and ask your child to say the number back to you that totals 10. Play this game using numbers that your child is working with at school. See how quickly your child can answer without using their fingers or counting.
- Throw 2 dice at the same time. Ask your child to add the numbers, subtract them, multiply them without counting. You could also use playing cards to do this.
- Play Bingo. Choose 5 numbers (numbers to 10, multiples of 5 (from the 5 times table). Ask a question, if the player has that number on their card they cross it off. Winner - first player to cross out all their numbers.
- Choose a number, ask your child to write as many number sentences as they can with that answer.
- Give your child a number fact. E.g. $5+3=8$. Ask them what else they can find out from that fact. E.g. $50+30=80,80-30=50300+500=800$. Add to the list over a period of a few days. Introduce other operations like subtraction, multiplication and division if appropriate.


## Shape, Space and Measures

- Choose a shape of the week. Look for the shape in the environment. Ask your child to describe the shape. (E.g. Cylinder, 2 circular faces, 2 curves edges)
- Play 'Guess my shape' you think of a shape. Ask your child to ask you questions about it, you are only allowed to answer yes or no. (E.g. Does it have 3 sides? Does it have straight edges?)
- Hunt for right angles in your home. Can you child spot any angles bigger or smaller than a right angle?
- Look for symmetrical objects in the home. Help your child to paint or draw symmetrical pictures or patterns.
- Make a model using boxes and containers of different shapes and sizes. Ask your child to describe their model, thinking about the shapes they have used.
- Practise measuring the height and length of objects in metres and centimetres. Encourage your child to use different rulers accurately. Encourage them to estimate before measuring.
- Let your child help with cooking at home. Help them to measure ingredients and read the scales.
- Choose some food items from the cupboard help your child to put them in order of weight. First by feel alone then by checking the weights
- Practise telling the time with your child using both digital and analogue clock. Ask your child to be the time keeper. E.g. tell me when it is half past four because we are going swimming)
- Use a stop watch to time how long it takes to do every day tasks. Estimate how long it will take to do first.


