



# **Seymour Primary School**

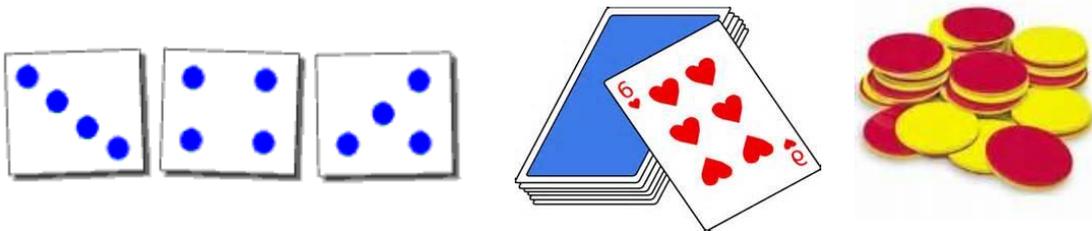
**A Parental guide to helping  
your child learn**

**Early Mathematics**

Maths is one of the most important subjects that your child studies at school. Numbers are all around us and even if you don't feel yourself to be a mathematics genius, there is plenty that you can do. In fact, your child should enjoy most of the suggested activities so much that they won't even realise that they're learning! This booklet contains the ideas for activities which were presented at our Parents workshop. All of the resources should be things you might find easily at home.

### 1. Early Counting Skills

Any objects around the house can be counted. Encourage your child to say one number name for each object. It's important that they touch each object as they count. It also helps if they line objects up in a row to count them so they don't count the same thing twice. Count other things when you are out and about, such as steps on the slide at the park, cars along the street or windows on a building.



*Try out these activities:*

- Throw some dice and count the spots.
- Use playing cards to count the pictures, or order the cards.
- Count out counters or pennies. Count out play-food for a tea party or cutlery to lay the table.
- Grab a handful of pennies, guess how many you are holding before you count them. Was your guess close to the right answer?

### Important questions to ask your child

How many do you have? How many altogether?

If you had one more how many would you have?

Can you take one away and tell me how many there are now?

Which is the next number on?

## 2. Building confidence with numbers to twenty

Try these activities:



Play snakes and ladders or games involving counting along a track.

Order cards with numbers to 20 written on. Can you set a timer for one/two minutes and try to complete it in that time? Pick a number card from between 0-20 and say the number that is one more or one less.



Practice counting aloud to twenty forwards and backwards. Play 'ping pong counting' where you take it in turns to say the number.



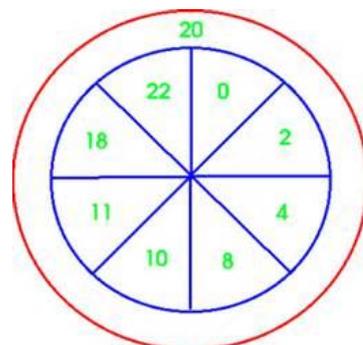
Make your own number line up to twenty and decorate it. Practice writing the numbers.

## 3. Solving number problems

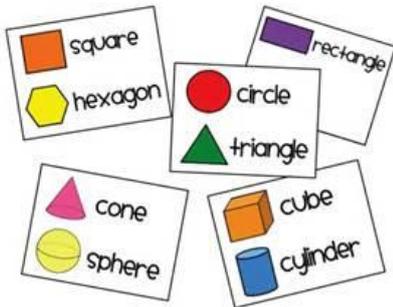


Throw two dice and add the numbers together. Can you write the sum? Can you subtract the smaller number from the bigger number? Throw one die and double it!

Make a target game: Write numbers onto shoe boxes, roll up two socks, aim them at the boxes- can you keep adding up your scores? Or play a simple darts game!



#### 4. Shapes: learning 2D (flat) and 3D (solid) shapes

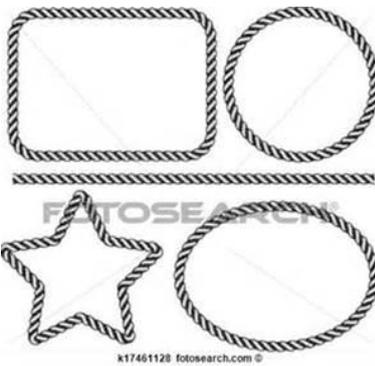


When you talk to your child about shapes use the names of the shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, hexagon or cube, cuboid, cylinder, cone, pyramid.

Use the vocabulary corner, side and edge.

*Try these activities:*

Look for items in the supermarket, in your kitchen cupboards or around the house that are special shapes.



Make shapes from a loop of string- can you lay it out to make a circle, a square, a triangle?

What happens if you overlap two loops?

What is the biggest shape you can make?

How can you make two shapes from one loop of string?

## 5. Using the language of measures

We use lots of different words to measure size, length, weight, time, or how much a container holds.

Here are some of the words we will be encouraging your child to use in their maths learning:

Long, longer, longest, short, shorter, shortest, tall, taller, tallest (length)

Heavy, heaviest, heavier, light, lightest, lighter than (Weight)

Next, before, after, yesterday, today, tomorrow, morning, afternoon, night (Time)

Full, empty, half full, overflowing (Capacity)

*Try these activities:*



Draw around your family's feet on paper and cut them out.

Who has the longest/ shortest feet? Can you measure them to check?

Use string/ ribbon/ lego bricks to measure objects around the house. Which is the tallest, shortest, widest?



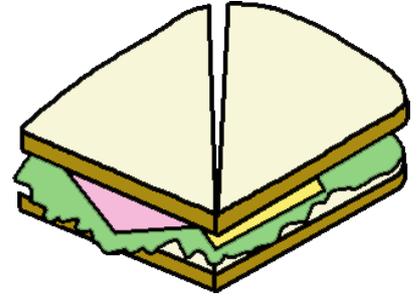
Have fun in the bath- measure out water into plastic cups with a jug. Talk about which cup will hold the most/ least water.

Do some cooking together, there are lots of counting, measuring and weighing opportunities when you are baking.



## 6. Halves and quarters

Make a sandwich: **Ready, Steady, CUT and SHARE!**



Take your **WHOLE** sandwich.

Cut it into two equal **HALVES** on a straight line across. Now you can share **ONE HALF** of your sandwich!

**OR** you could cut the two **HALVES** again. Now you have **FOUR QUARTERS** which make up the **WHOLE** sandwich before it was cut! You can now share **ONE QUARTER!**



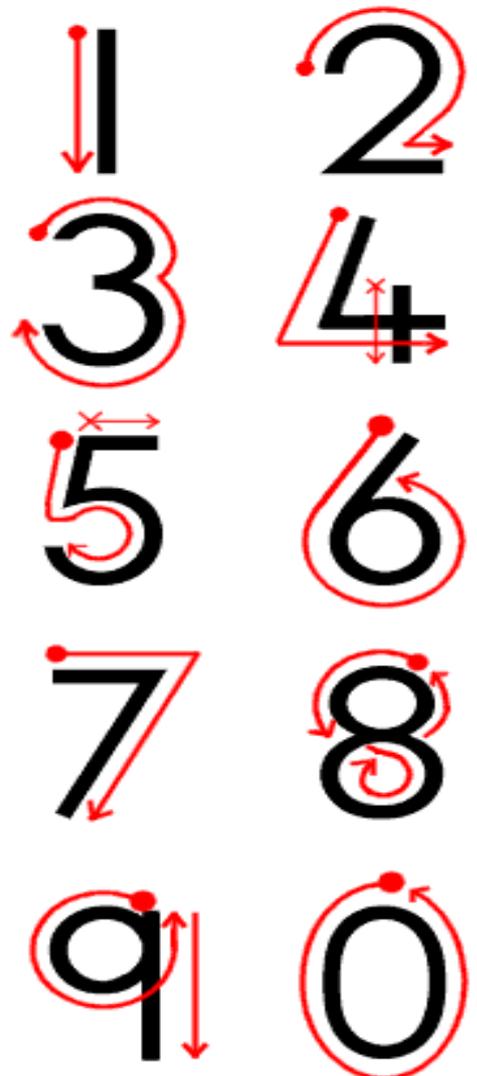
Practice sharing out a number by sharing a set of sweets/toys/counters or pennies with someone in your family.

Ask if they have been shared fairly? How will they know?

7. Recording numbers: when your child is writing numbers it is important to encourage them to write their numerals correctly in the right sequence of movements and the right way around.

*Try these activities:*

- Use a paintbrush and water to paint numbers on the ground or onto paper.
- Make numbers from pipe cleaners or sticks on the ground.
- Pour a layer of rice or flour onto a plate or shallow tray. Draw numbers with your finger in the rice or flour.



Learning maths on the computer can be great fun too, here are some useful websites:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/numeracy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml)

<http://www.primarygames.com/math.php>