



JAMES AITON PRIMARY

PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION



Preparing your Child for Starting School

Maths Skills

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with you as your child prepares to begin their educational journey at Primary School.

There are many things you can do to prepare your child for starting school - this information sheet will consider what you can do to help your child develop a variety of Maths Skills.

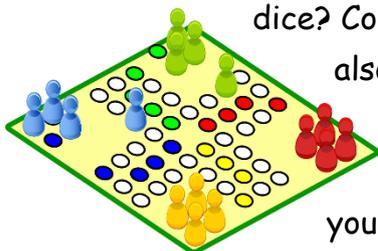
Help your child become confident with counting, recognising and using numbers



❖ Talk about Numbers and relate them to everyday life, eg setting the table - "We need 4 spoons", check how many tins of beans you need to buy, etc

❖ Follow a recipe together - "We need 2 cups of flour", "We need 1 cherry for the top of each cake", etc

- ❖ Count the buttons on a coat or cardigan
- ❖ Count how many stairs you go up and down
- ❖ Look at the number of the bus - what number is it?
- ❖ Count the fruit in the fruit bowl
- ❖ Play skittles - how many skittles did you knock down?
- ❖ Play Hopscotch - what numbers can you see?
- ❖ Play board games that need a dice - what number did you throw with the dice? Count how many spaces you have to move. (The dice



also helps with recognising the visual display of numbers)

❖ Put some shaving foam on a table - encourage your child to write numbers in the shaving foam

- ❖ Use chalk outside to practise writing numbers on the ground
- ❖ Make numbers from play dough - roll the playdough and bend it into the shape of a numeral
- ❖ Have a display of magnetic numbers (0 10) on your fridge - ask your child to find a number and say what it is.
- ❖ Play dominoes - this also helps with recognising the visual patterns of numbers
- ❖ Play Snakes and Ladders - this helps with counting forwards and backwards
- ❖ Sing Number Rhymes - eg 5 Little Speckled Frogs, 5 Currant Buns, 10 in a Bed, 10 Green Bottles, etc



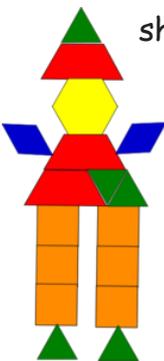
You can find Number Songs and Rhymes at "Nursery Rhymes & Songs A - Z BBC Teach"

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-z-index/z4ddgwx>

What about other Maths concepts?

Recognising Shape

- ❖ Point out shapes around you - circle, square, triangle, rectangle
- ❖ Play 'Shape Tickle'. Draw shapes on your child's back and ask if they can guess what shape it is by feel
- ❖ Do some potato printing with your child - Cut raw potatoes in half. Simple shapes such as squares and triangles can be cut into the potato and used to make marks with paint. Your child will enjoy developing their creativity as well as learning about shape.
 - ❖ Use gummed shapes to make pictures, eg a rocket, an alien, a flower, a house, etc. This helps your child gain an understanding of the different shapes and how they can be used together to create an image.



Understanding Measure



- ❖ Children love playing with sand and water, and these are excellent for developing an understanding of measure. Give the children measuring jugs and buckets to transfer sand or water from one to the other. Discuss which holds more / less - how do we know?
- ❖ Have a toy car race with your child. Push your cars from the same starting spot - whose car travelled furthest?
- ❖ Use chalks outside to make lines on the ground and talk about which is the longest
- ❖ Plan some baking and let your child weigh out the ingredients
- ❖ Encourage your child to measure themselves against a height chart
- ❖ Play with Lego - who can build the tallest tower?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Understanding Time

- ❖ Talk with your child using "time" words - day, night, morning, afternoon, yesterday, tomorrow
- ❖ Mention the time at different points in the day. eg, you could say, 'it's 5 o'clock - time for tea,' or 'it's 7 o'clock - time for a bath.'
- ❖ Play games like "What's the Time Mr Wolf?"
- ❖ Use a timer to time a race



Enjoy the time you spend with your child having fun with Maths, and know that you are contributing to their readiness for learning when they start Primary School.