

General Guidance

"I was useless at maths in school..."

How often do you hear people apologising for their lack of mathematical ability? It seems that nearly everywhere you go, there are people with negative feelings towards maths. Yet, as a subject, it is all around us. We carry out mathematical processes, routinely, without even thinking about it.

Our goal, as parents and teachers alike, is to help our children be more confident with maths; so how can we do this?

Use Practical Examples

It is recommended that parents use practical examples as well as drawing and role-play when helping with maths activities. Have counters, buttons or lollipop sticks handy for counting or bundling. Seeing a maths problem illustrated or demonstrated in front of them is often all a child will need to make sense of it.



Help them to think for themselves

Don't always reveal the answer straight away. If your child is struggling to solve a question, ask them to talk about how they would go about finding an answer. Discussing a solution may take more time than giving them the answer, but it is time well spent. Even if your child gives the correct answer, asking them to explain their thinking will develop their problem-solving ability.



Realise that mistakes are normal

Mathematical answers are usually right or wrong. When your child gives a wrong answer, it can be easy to be dismissive of their effort. Treat a mistake as a learning opportunity and take time to discuss why it is wrong and how the question could be solved correctly.



A Parent's Guide



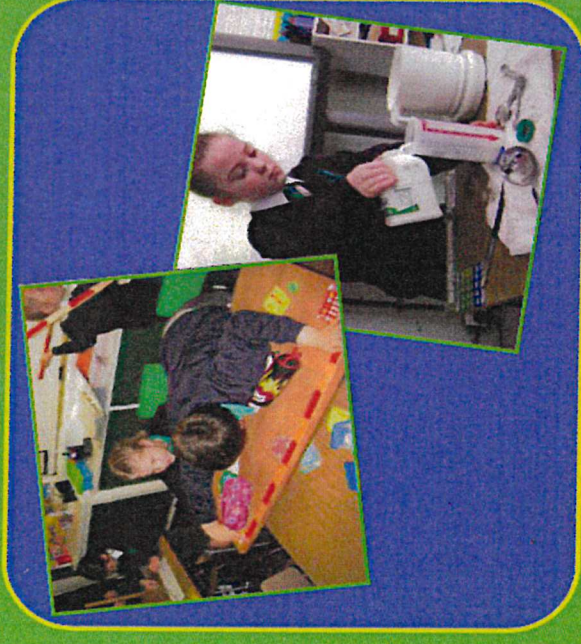
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Useful Home Activities

There are many activities that can be carried out at home to support your children:

- Counting games; guess the number of marbles, coins etc. then count them.
- Compare amounts in glasses or bottles, guess then measure how much they hold.
- Compare, guess and measure the weight and length of objects around your home.
- Talk about and tell the time in whole, half and quarter hours.
- Play card, dice, and board games, e.g. Snakes and Ladders.
- Point out and discuss the different shapes to be found around your home and in the environment.
- Take your child shopping, talk about the quantities and prices of the things you buy.
- Let your child handle money, pay for items and work out change.

- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates. Add, subtract, multiply and divide the numbers as appropriate to your child's ability.



- Everyday household activities provide many opportunities for your child to develop their mathematical skills. Use cooking and craft activities to practise weighing, measuring and timing skills.
- Vary the mathematical language you use with your children, e.g. think of the different words used for adding - total, plus, increase etc.

Be positive
and the enthusiasm will rub off.

Research shows that parents' attitude to maths is the primary factor in determining their children's attitude to maths.

Useful Websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

www.primarygames.co.uk

www.ictgames.com/resources

Please approach the class teacher at
anytime for support and guidance

