



Maths

Children are born with an innate mathematical ability and research has shown that parents have a massive effect on how this develops. Even if you feel you aren't good at maths, there are things you can do with your child now that will make a big difference to their ability:

It's all about confidence...

For children to be good at maths, they need to feel confident about giving it a go. Praising your child for their effort, not their ability, will increase their confidence and make them hungry to learn more.

Positivity is the key...

Children who succeed at maths are usually the ones who enjoy it most, so remember - maths is fun, everyone! Yep - just keep telling yourself that, even if that's not the way you remember it from your own childhood.

Do maths together every day...

This might not sound very attractive, but guess what? You already are. Maths is everywhere - helping your child get dressed, baking together, going to the shops, singing counting songs, building with blocks - practically every activity we do with our children involves maths.

Activities that can help your child:

1. Number spotting
Can be done anywhere! Talk about the numbers on buses, front doors, price tags or even on the back of footballers' shirts, for older children you may even spot roman numerals.
2. Songs and rhymes
Songs and rhymes are great for helping young children learn to count e.g: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive" (for counting up); and "There were 10 green bottles sitting on the wall" (for counting down). These can be used for times tables, shapes and many more.
3. Steps and stairs
Count together as you walk up and down stairs while you're out and about or when climbing the stairs to bed. For older children recite times tables as you walk.
4. Dominoes Matching - the dots on one domino to those on another domino is great for developing matching skills and really helps children to get the idea of what "four" looks like.
1. 8. Let them use money. Let children pay for items in shops and calculate the cost. Give children a budget to spend on treats or helping you in the food shop.

