

Supporting Your Child with Maths

Children with dyscalculia, dysgraphia and other learning difficulties can find maths very challenging. It is really hard to find a balance between helping them improve and keeping them motivated. As with most skills - practise makes perfect and the more children write the more they will learn.

Below are some ideas help:

- Let your children use jottings to prevent them losing track mid-process.
- Coloured pens can highlight various aspects of a questions to aid memory and build a picture.
- For calculations use step by step procedures to follow. Many schools have a calculation policy which could help. Maths is fun website has clear examples for you to follow. <https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/index.html>
- Make sure that the maths has a purpose and an audience – a real purpose is more motivating, for example, maths for cooking, garden, shopping.
- Play games with playing cards, dice or dominoes. Images help build memory of number images and support counting.
- Count objects daily in lots of different ways. This could be made into a game e.g. How fast can you put all your toys in the box- can we count them as we go. Count while going on a walk e.g. How many red cars will we see today on our walk?
- Use learning journeys/ make up stories to describe calculations. There are 6 yellow bricks and 4 green bricks, how many bricks altogether?
- Use hand gestures to describe operations – cross arms for addition, make a multiplication sign by crossing arms, one arm for subtraction.
- Practice finger counting, songs and rhymes why not try skip counting for learning tables <https://numberock.com/> , check out the videos on YouTube.
- Progress is often slow and frequent revision is necessary. The same ground may need to be covered many times. A poster to collect ideas that could be added to each day is a fun idea!
- Give them some examples or key facts to help. If you $6 + 4 = 10$, $4 + 6 = 10$
- Break it down into small sessions don't try and do more than 15 minutes at a time with KS2 pupils, 10 minutes with younger children.
- Go through the work at the child's own pace. Be careful not to overload them can occur frequently and this results in an inability to absorb anything. Ask them to talk through what they are doing as they work.
- If you or they are unsure of what a word means then there is a great dictionary on the maths is fun website <https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/index.html>
- Play board games like monopoly, ludo, snakes and ladders, draughts, connect 4, pick up sticks.
- Try memory fun games like Kim's game or build jigsaws.

Responding to maths

- Ensure they achieve success by valuing their ideas
- Build belief 'You can do it', What help you do it? '
- Recognise strengths and avoid exposing weaknesses
- Praise effort and achievement
- Build confidence in their ability to succeed....' I know you can'...'you are really good at this...
- Help children to recognise their own improvements
- If a child says 'I always get it wrong' respond by saying 'ok, let's see what is causing you the problem, tell me about it'