Supporting maths at home: Years 3 and 4

Children whose parents show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves.

Everyday situations:

- **Cooking** – Weighing and measuring ingredients.

  Multiplying and dividing: take a recipe for 8 people and then make it for 4 people.

- **Telling the time** – What time do we leave for school? What time do we have dinner? etc.
- **Shopping** – Give your child money to spend at the shops; counting how much change you have in your purse; adding the cost of 2 items in the shop; calculating change when shopping.
- **The world around us** – Identifying shapes and patterns in the world around us by looking at the shapes of containers in your shopping trolley; identifying shapes in buildings; looking at symmetrical patterns on drain covers.
- **Working with a budget** - Give your child a budget to plan their birthday party; to make up party bags; to buy the family's Christmas presents.
- **The answer** – Give your child the answer and they generate the question e.g. the answer is 20, what is the question? 4 x 5, 36-16, 15.4 + 4.6
- **20 questions** - Think of a number between 0-20. Your child has 20 questions to guess what the number is e.g. is it an odd number? You can only answer yes or no.
- **Don't roll a 6!** – How high can you go? Roll a die and then keep adding the numbers. If you roll a 6 you can shout 'don't roll a 6!' and you have to start at 0 again.

  -How low can you go? This can also be played for subtraction starting at 50 or 100. Every time you roll a 6 you go back to the starting number.

Play activities/games:

- Card games such as Pontoon, Uno, etc.
- Any games involving calculating scores, e.g. Scrabble, Monopoly, quoits, darts, bowling.
- Games involving strategic thinking and logic, e.g. Connect Four, Chinese Checkers, Solitaire, Draughts, Chess, Battleships or Dominoes
- Specialized computer games designed for using and developing maths.

Rhymes

- Make up rhymes together to help your child to remember the harder times-tables facts, e.g.

  6 x 7 = 42 phew! 7 x 7 = 49 fine! 6 x 8 = 48 great!

Mental activities:

- **Counting** - Practise counting forwards and backwards from any given number firstly in 1s and 10s then progressing to 5's, 2's, 3's etc.
- **Number bonds** - Practise recalling number bonds for each number to 20 e.g. 12 + 5 = 17, 7 + 6 = 13
- **Doubles** - Practise doubles to 20.
- **Adding** - Roll 2 dice when playing board games, such as snakes and ladders, and add the digits on the dice.
- **Times tables** - Chant the times tables on the way to school each day; quick fire tables questions; sing the tables to CDs.

Websites:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/

http://uk.ixl.com/math/year-3

http://uk.ixl.com/math/year-4

http://primarygamesarena.com/Year-3

http://primarygamesarena.com/Year-4

http://mrnussbaum.com/mathcode/

Please remember: whatever you do with your child, have a positive attitude towards maths yourself!