



The Blyth Academy

Ways to help your child with numeracy

Research has shown that the single most important thing you can do to help your child with maths is to pass on a positive attitude.

Your son/daughter will need to use maths throughout their lives; at school, home and work.

This booklet lists some tips you can use to help your child improve their numeracy skills.

Try some of these ways to help your child with numeracy.

Please let us know which you find most useful!

Remember:

Be positive. Don't say things like "I hate maths" or "I can't do maths" as it could lead your child to feel like this too.

Praise any effort your child makes; this helps them to understand that by working hard they can improve.

1. Talk about time - for example: What time should they leave the house to be at school on time? How long does it take to get to school?

2. Talk about numbers in sport - for example:
- How many points does your team need to be promoted or to avoid relegation?
 - If your team wins 6 matches, how many points will they get?
 - What is the points difference between the top and bottom placed teams?

3. Set maths problems - for example: "We have 4 pizzas cut into quarters. If we eat 10 quarters, how many quarters would we have left?"

4. Talk about the size and shape of objects; you could use the internet to find out facts such as the tallest and smallest buildings. Find out who the tallest person is and with your child work out what the difference in height is to your child.

5. Talk about size, shape and quantity; you could use the internet to find out interesting facts such as the tallest mountain, deepest sea, longest river, most populated city etc.

6. At the shops, if you're buying a couple of items, ask your child how much it will cost in total.

7. Work out offers when you're in the supermarket; are they worth it -will you save money?

8. Ask your child to check your change when you've bought something.

9. If your child has a mobile phone, use it to discuss which contract or pay as you go plan offers the best value for money.

10. Play sport; this is a great way to talk about scores, speed, time and angles.

11. On journeys ask your child questions such as:

- How many miles/kilometres have we got left before we arrive?
- If we travel at an average of 50 miles an hour, what time will we arrive?

12. If you're travelling to somewhere familiar, ask your child to give you directions of how to get there together with how long they think it will take.

13. When watching TV, ask questions like:

- How many votes are being cast on X-Factor or Strictly Come Dancing?
- What's the difference in the points between the top and bottom placed dancers?

14. Do some cooking together. Measure ingredients and/or set the timer for cooking. Ask questions such as:

- How many millilitres in a litre?
- How many grams in a kilogram?
- If we wanted to make twice as much, how much of each ingredient would we need?

15. Talk about proportions when making a cup of tea or squash... how much milk or how much water?

16. Play games with playing cards - each player takes 2 cards and adds the numbers. The person with the highest score wins. You could play this game using subtraction, multiplication or division too. Keep a tally of the scores and add up them up to find the overall winner.

17. Board games are fantastic for developing skills. Try games like Yahtzee!, Jenga, Connect4, Monopoly, Dominoes and Battleships.

For more tips and support, try the National Numeracy Parent Toolkit website: <http://www.nparenttoolkit.org.uk/>

For further help please contact:

Ms.S.Coathup

SENCo

StudentSupport@theblythacademy.org

01670 798100