



Maths at home

Maths isn't just answering sums, it is all around us. As adults, we use maths all the time without realising it and by asking our children a couple of questions we can get them thinking about maths with us. It doesn't need any resources; it doesn't need to take extra time and it's free!

When you are out shopping.

Get your children involved in the shopping trip by thinking out loud and asking them some simple questions. It doesn't have to involve money, maths is also estimating and comparing size. You could ask them;

My shopping list is 5 items, will I need a basket or a trolley?

Which is the best value? Why?

Which has the best 'use by' date?

I need 3 carrots for dinner, which bag shall I get?

How much do you think we have spent?

Out and about

Every day we travel somewhere with our children, whether its in the car or on our feet. While we are moving from one place to another we could ask them some questions about the distance, the time it will take, using the language of left and right, spot some odd and even numbers or do some counting. Here some ideas of what you could ask;

How long do you think it will take to get to...?

How many steps?

How many turns will we take?

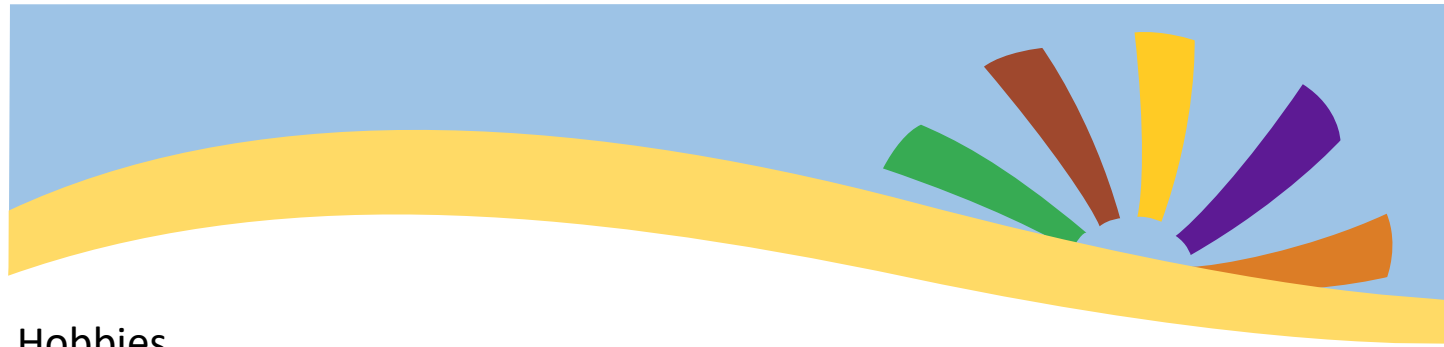
Which do you think is further away, *Tesco* or *Iceland*?

What is the biggest number we will see today?

How many lorries will we spot?

How many *dogs* will we see?

Which building is the tallest/shortest?



Hobbies

A lot of our hobbies involve maths without us realising. Whether we play football on the park or enjoy knitting, hobbies involve maths! Talk about the maths with your child, counting up a score,

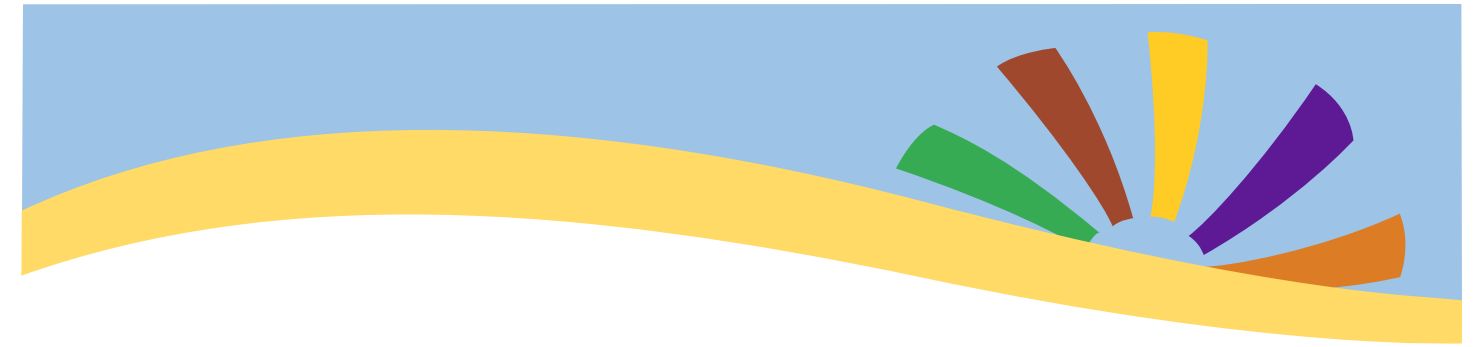
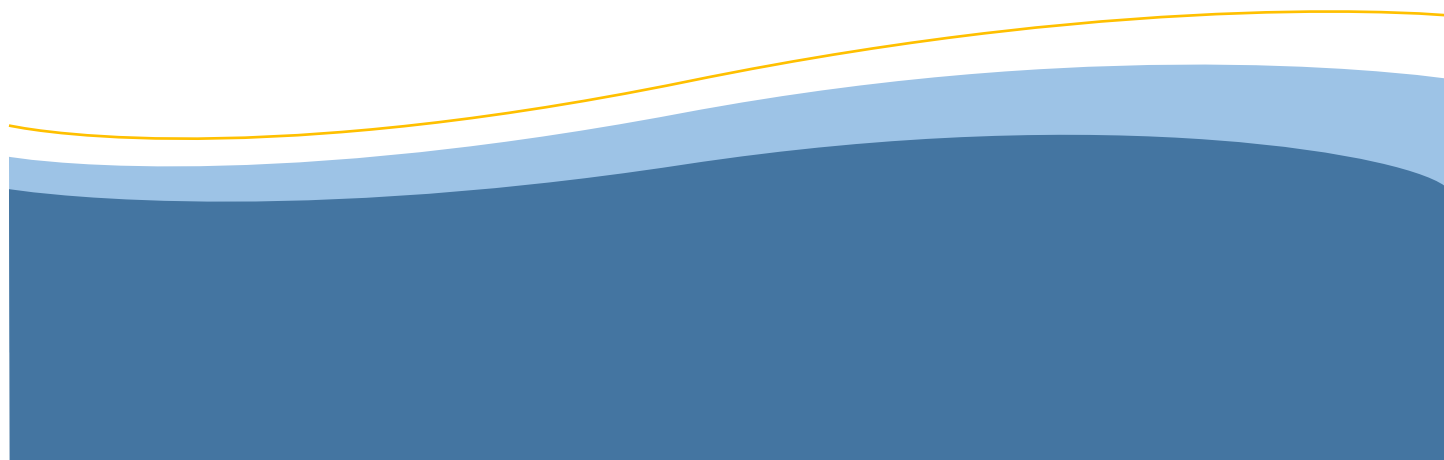
Watching TV – this episode is 48 minutes long, your bedtime is in 1 hour, will we have time to watch it?

Playing sport – what is the score? How many more points do we need to win? How long left in the game?

Gardening – I have 30 seeds and 5 plant pots to put them in, how many seeds should I put in each one? How many red flowers can you see?

Video gaming – how many points have I got? How long is left in the game? What level are we on? How many coins have I collected? Who is 1st, 2nd and 3rd?

Cooking—measuring out ingredients, comparing a teaspoon measure against a tablespoon measure, the temperature needed on the oven and looking at the scale on the dial.



Remember, when we are doing maths at home with our children;

- It does not need to be school work, maths at home can be something we are already doing but talking about it with our children
- Don't be afraid to share that you don't know or get something wrong. Maths is about having a go, learning from mistakes and having fun!
- Believe in your own ability. One of the UK's biggest problems in maths education is children 'catching' their parents' own low confidence in maths. If you don't feel confident, this is more likely to have come from your life experience than your genes. You have the ability: you've just not had the chance to develop it. You probably use maths more than you give yourself credit for. So avoid suggesting that people in your family aren't good at maths. Your children will believe it, and make it come true.

