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Can Parents help with Maths?

The answer is definitely yes. The key, especially for young children, is to make it as much fun as possible. Games, puzzles and jigsaws are a great way to start. It is also important for your child to see adults using maths in everyday life. Your attitude to maths can be passed onto your child without you realising it.

In many homes, mums send their children to dad for help with maths. The unspoken message here may be that women don't 'do' maths. How many daughters are 'being told' that maths is a boy thing?

Identifying and solving problems can also help your child develop maths and numeracy skills. If your children are puzzling over something, talk through the problem with them and try to work out the solution together.

Things that are easy to do:

- Look for different shapes that can be seen around your home.
- When shopping with your children, talk about the different quantities of things you buy and make sure your children sees the quantity, e.g. a bag of sugar is 1 kilogramme. This gives them a mental image of a kilogramme.
- Allow your children to handle money and work out how much things cost.
- Look for numbers on street signs or car number plates.

These simple activities draw your children's attention to the very fact that maths is all around us and is part of everyday life.