



NUMBERS: LEARNING AT HOME

MAKING SENSE OF MATHS

Here are some ideas to help you bring maths to life for your children:

- Think out loud when you use numbers, time, position and measurement so your children see how useful maths can be. For example: *I wonder if we have enough apples?* and *Let's count to make sure.*
- Encourage your children to talk through what they are doing. Ask questions and let your children ask questions too. This helps them make sense of things and helps them understand what they are doing. It is an effective way to learn.
- Compare and order the length of items in and around home. For example: *Which container is the tallest? Which sock is the longest?* and *Can you put these cups in order from shortest to tallest?*
- Encourage your children to read catalogues, for example they could find all the items that cost under \$5. Ask questions like: *How many cans could we buy with \$10?* and *If you had \$50 to spend what could you buy with that?*
- Encourage them to notice and use patterns in the environment, for example patterns on wrapping paper, furniture, necklaces and clothing. Make patterns from beads and blocks.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your children to concentrate when there are no distractions.

- Ask your children questions while you are doing everyday activities so they begin to think and talk about maths from an early age. Ask questions such as: *How many are there? Which way is it? Will it fit in there? Is there enough for all of us?* and *How big is it?*
- Praise your children for trying, even if they give the wrong answer. If they don't know the answer, give them time to work it out. If you give them the answer, talk about how you worked it out. This builds their confidence in learning. Give them time to think and time to answer your questions. Be patient.

Follow the golden rule of 'little and often' – a few minutes each day learning about numbers is better than a 30 minute maths session.



You'll find more learning at home factsheets at education.wa.edu.au.