



Finch Nest Preschool

EARLY MATHS



NURTURING YOUNG HEARTS THROUGH CURIOSITY AND
EXPLORATION



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An Introduction to Early Maths

Children begin to develop their early maths skills from the moment they are born, as they are naturally drawn to the shapes that make up the human face.

There are a number of key skills that cover Early Maths:

- Language and Vocabulary
- Numbers
- Position and Space
- Shape
- Patterns

Maths is present in our everyday lives, and there are many practical activities parents and caregivers can engage in to develop children's growth and understanding as part of their daily routine. This booklet offers various ideas to assist you in this exciting journey!



Language and Vocabulary

Children will copy the language and vocabulary you use and will apply them to the contexts that you use them in too! Therefore, it is vital that you use the correct language and vocabulary around your child and show them the meanings whilst using every day objects and pictures.

Sand and Water

Provide lots of different containers in a sandpit, water tray or bath.

Language such as 'more, less, heavy, light, full and empty' can be modelled with the containers and the sand/water.

Playdough or Pastry

Make different models and describe them. E.g. short, long, thing, fat, bigger, smaller.

Day to Day Routine

Talk about daily routine.

Vocabulary such as, 'today, tomorrow, yesterday, this morning, now, next, after then' will start to naturally develop. Talk about the days of the week and weekends.

Take a Walk

Talk about what you can see and where they are: look at the red van in front of the Post Office. There's a cat on top of the fence.

Playtime

Ask your child to make a 'tall tower' when playing with bricks. Language such as 'short, wide, narrow, thin, big, small' can be learned.

Number

Including Counting, Sequencing & Conservation

Singing Songs

Sing nursery rhymes that are based on numbers and counting. Examples include:

- 5 Little Ducks
- 5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer
- 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive
- 10 Green Bottles
- Alice the Camel

Counting Stairs

How many stairs are in your house or building? Count the steps as you go up or down.

Laundry!

Count up the clothes in the laundry - why not count the pairs of socks and introduce counting in 2s?

Can you order the numbers?

E.g. 1 pair of trousers, 2 t-shirts, 3 dresses...

Outdoors

When out and about, look at numbers on number plates, buses and house numbers. You can introduce odd and even numbers.

Count the different objects you can see, like petals, cars, trees...

Playtime

Count the number of toys placed in a box. You could even count the number of bricks as you tidy them away. Why not put numbers onto toy cars, blocks or cuddlies and put them in order?

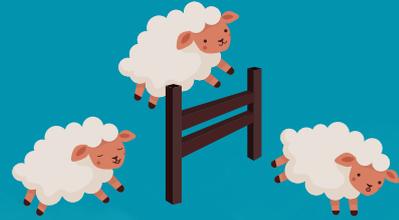
Help Me!

Ask your child to help you by bringing you a certain amount of objects. E.g. Can you bring me two blocks please? Show your child what happens when you put one away - now you only have one left!

Position & Space

Picture Books

Look at the pictures in your book and describe the position of the objects in the picture. E.g. The ball is going over the hedge! Use language like: under, between, on top of, next to, in front of, behind etc...



Playdough

Make models and explain the position of the pieces as you build. E.g. I am putting the snowman's head on top of his body. Explore the fact that changing the shape of the playdough does not change the amount of playdough.

Chores

How many clothes can fit into the washing machine?

How many dishes into the dishwasher?

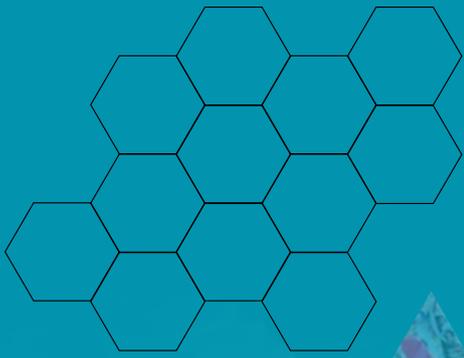
When tidying up, give positional instructions - can you put the toys 'inside' the box? Can you put the plate 'on top' of the table? Can you put the car 'next' to the lego box?

Sand & Water

Look how much a container can hold and see if it holds the same amount if you pour it out and back in again. Can you find two different containers that hold the same amount?



Shape



Cooking

Cut vegetables and fruits into different shapes.
Decorate cakes or biscuits with different shapes.
Bake biscuits into different shapes and sizes.

Walks

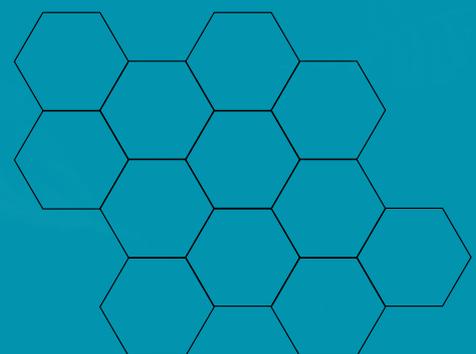
How many shapes can you find out on a walk? Which shape appears the most? Take photographs with the shapes to count them afterwards.

General Playtime

What shapes can you see on your toys and games? Can you sort your toys into groups based on shape?

Playdough

Make different 2D and 3D shapes - talk about how they are different and about the number of sides, vertices, edges and faces.
Can you make different pictures using shapes, like faces or boats etc?



Patterns

Outside Time

Look for patterns and spirals in things like seed heads and pine cones.

Look for patterns on flowers, leaves, snail shells, butterflies, ladybirds and other creatures.

Playdough

Make repeating patterns using different shapes or colours of playdough.

Make different playdough shapes to make faces.

Laundry!

When sorting your washing into colours, why not make patterns using the clothes? This may be based on colours of the clothing or by the type of clothing you have!

Cooking

Make patterns using different colours or shapes of fruits and vegetables or other foods you are cooking with.



Useful Links

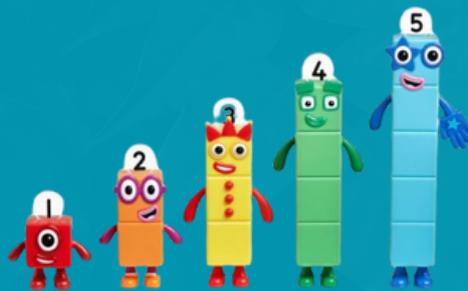
Please click the links below to view them.

GAMES

[Top Marks - Maths Games](#)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

[Numberblocks](#)



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