

## Maths Activities to do at home - Forest Classes

**Children love counting.** Spend time counting different things. The number of times they clap, jump, skip. Count different items around the house, for example, windows and socks. Give your child number cards (just write numbers on paper) and see if they can match the numbers as they count. You could also time things, for example, how many seconds does it take to run upstairs, tidy away my toys?

**Children love singing.** There are lots of number songs and rhymes you can sing, Five Naughty Monkeys, Five Little Ducks, 10 Green Bottles, 5 Current Buns. If you don't know them, ask your children to sing them to you! Act out the songs with family members or toys. Use number cards to match to the numbers as you sing them.

**Families love board games!** Playing any board games that involve using a dice will be helpful to your children as they have to count the dots and then the corresponding number of spaces/turns on the board.

**Children love playing shop!** Use groceries, clothes or shoes to make different shops with your child. Give them real money to use. Take turns to play different roles, for example, the shop keeper and the customer. Count out the items and talk about the different costs, money and giving change. You could practise writing numbers by making price tags.

**Children often enjoy hunting.** Set your child with timed tasks. For example, you have 10 seconds to find anything in the house that is a circle shape (clock, cup etc) Talk about the number of sides or corners different shapes have. See how many shapes you can find around the house. Draw round different objects to make shape pictures, for example, tins to make circles. Ask your child to go on a number hunt around the house, where can they find numbers? On packaging, clocks etc. Challenge them to find specific numbers or numbers in order.

**Children often enjoy guessing** - Play different guessing games and then count the objects to see if your guess was more or less than the amount. For example, pasta in the jar, socks in the washing basket (as they put them into the machine!), pencils in the pot. They get excited by big numbers! You could provide a clear plastic jar with a number of things in it and change these daily. Filling a big jar with really small things will give children the experience of what large numbers look like.

**Children love measuring** - Measure different things in your house, you can measure using blocks, tins anything! For example, how many tins high is the window? How many blocks tall is Daddy? You could then extend this using rulers and tape measures. Use words like taller/shorter.

## Literacy Activities to do at home - Forest Class

**Children love reading!** Read to your child everyday:

- Encourage them to join in with the repeated parts of the story.
- Ask them to guess what is going to happen next.
- Talk about the story, characters and plot and ask questions.
- Think of different endings to the story.
- Ask your child to use the pictures in the book to make up the story.
- You could also make up your own stories together - you don't always need a book!
- Be an author and write your own books.

**We all love singing!** - Sing songs and nursery rhymes, if you don't know any, ask your children, they will know lots and could teach you! Make up your own songs and rhymes. Make up movements and dances to the songs and rhymes you sing.

**Children love playing shop!** - Make up role play shops using clothes, shoes or food from your house. Make up labels for all the items. Encourage your child to write shopping lists.

**Children often enjoy hunting.** Set your child with timed tasks. For example, give them a letter written on a piece of paper, see if they can find the same letter somewhere around the house, for example, on a book, packet etc. Hide the letter card and ask children to say the sound as they hunt for it. Ask the child to go and find all the objects in the house that begin with that sound. Go on a text hunt and find any writing anywhere you can, talk about what it says and means.

**Playing with sounds** - Play games like "I Spy" but using the letter sound rather than name. Give your child a simple word and encourage your child to say words that rhyme, for example, cat hat, sat, mat. Make up silly rhymes or rhyming names, for example, Rob Bob or Ali Wali. Play memory games with the family, for example, one person starts "I went on a picnic and took..." each person repeats the last and adds their own idea.

**Love writing!** - Label all the things in your house that you can, for example, door, table, window, cooker etc. Encourage your child to sound out the words. Write a letter to Grandparents or to somebody in the nursery. Practise writing letters using Read Write Inc. Practise writing your name!

**Letter Ball!** - Write some letters and stick them to the wall. Screw up paper to make balls. Name the letter and sound and then try and hit it with the ball!