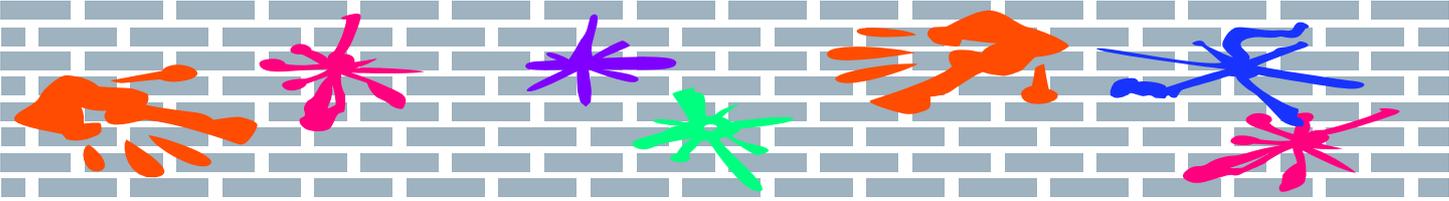
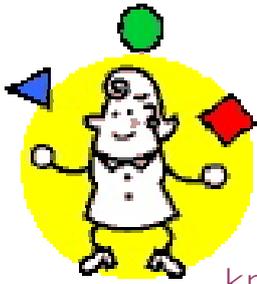


**'Mathematics  
and  
Numeracy' in  
the  
Foundation  
Stage**



*Building Together in the Foundation  
Stage  
Information for Parents/Carers*





Children will have opportunities to experience a variety of stimulating and meaningful activities, designed to develop each child's ability to understand a range of mathematical concepts and use appropriate mathematical language. They will be enabled to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in:

### Number

Investigating  
number

Counting

Estimating

Ordering numbers

### Measures

Explore, compare,  
order

length, weight,

### Sorting

Explore

properties of

sets of materials

Sort for one criterion

### Patterns & Relationships

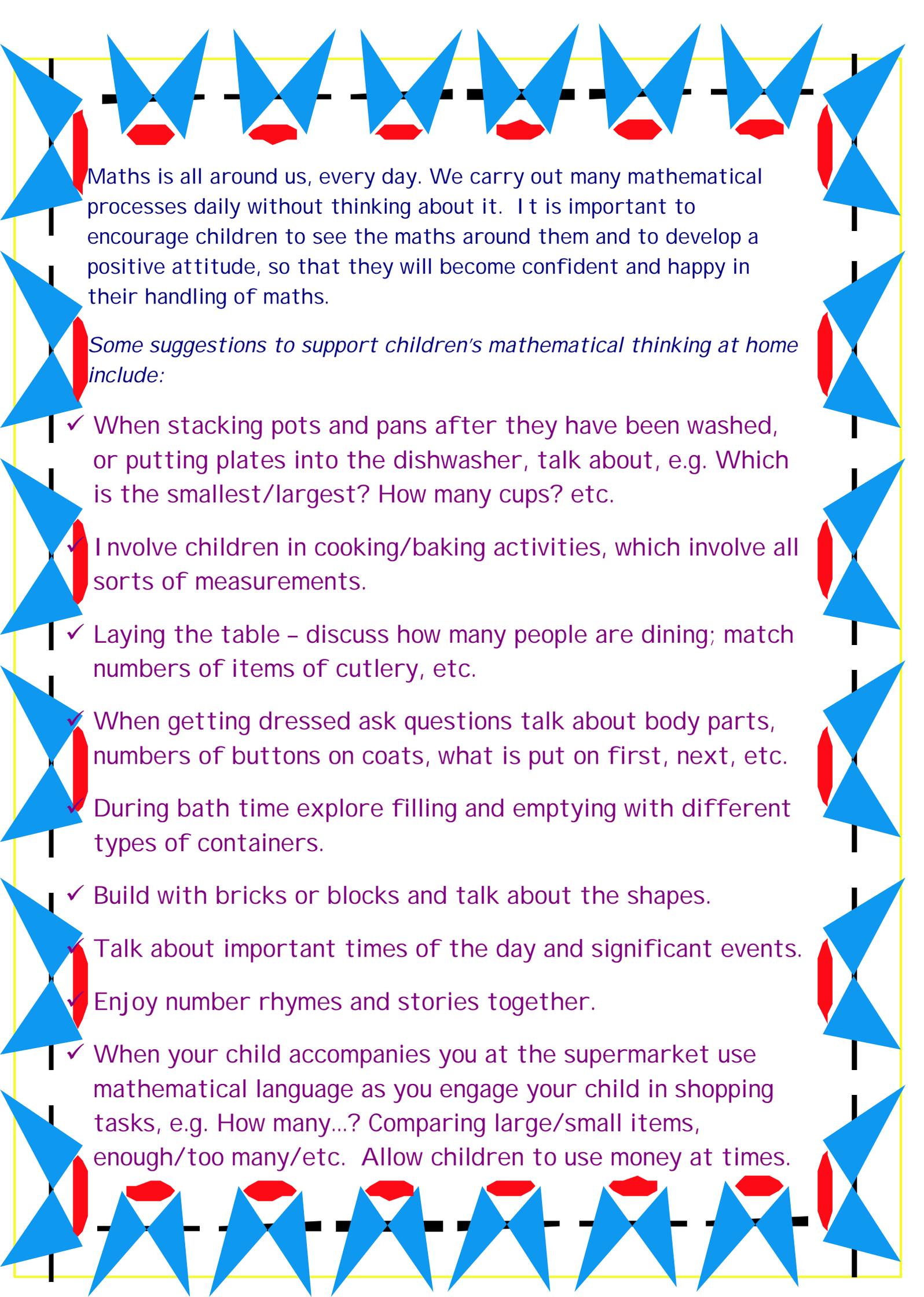
Investigate pattern

Copy, continue, create  
patterns

Explore pattern in number

**Children will have opportunity to develop mathematical thinking through a range of experiences including:**

- ◆ listening to/joining in with rhymes, songs and stories with a mathematical theme, e.g. the Three Bears, 'One, Two, Buckle my Shoe', 'Five Baker's Buns', 'Five Little Monkeys', etc.;
- ◆ practical fun-filled, play activities, e.g. making numerals with dough, setting table in house play, counting in play, building with blocks (3D shape), threading activities (patterns), water/sand play (measure – capacity), post office play – weighing parcels, etc.;
- ◆ shopping activities - using money in various contexts, familiarisation with coins, using coins;
- ◆ investigations, e.g. sorting random set of objects, ordering set of objects for, e.g. length;
- ◆ maths games, e.g. dice games, snakes and ladders, lotto games, pairs, matching games, sequencing/ordering games;
- ◆ exploration of body space through movement – indoor and outdoor play; understand and use positional words;
- ◆ play with programmable devices to explore movement (ICT skills e.g. use of Roamer/Bee-Bot);
- ◆ use of visual timetable; discussions about significant times;
- ◆ using data – making simple pictographs, block graphs, tables and diagrams, on occasion, using the computer to present their data;



Maths is all around us, every day. We carry out many mathematical processes daily without thinking about it. It is important to encourage children to see the maths around them and to develop a positive attitude, so that they will become confident and happy in their handling of maths.

*Some suggestions to support children's mathematical thinking at home include:*

- ✓ When stacking pots and pans after they have been washed, or putting plates into the dishwasher, talk about, e.g. Which is the smallest/largest? How many cups? etc.
- ✓ Involve children in cooking/baking activities, which involve all sorts of measurements.
- ✓ Laying the table – discuss how many people are dining; match numbers of items of cutlery, etc.
- ✓ When getting dressed ask questions talk about body parts, numbers of buttons on coats, what is put on first, next, etc.
- ✓ During bath time explore filling and emptying with different types of containers.
- ✓ Build with bricks or blocks and talk about the shapes.
- ✓ Talk about important times of the day and significant events.
- ✓ Enjoy number rhymes and stories together.
- ✓ When your child accompanies you at the supermarket use mathematical language as you engage your child in shopping tasks, e.g. How many...? Comparing large/small items, enough/too many/etc. Allow children to use money at times.