



Key Stage One Numeracy- A Guide for parents.

If you are helping your child with their Numeracy, the following ideas may be useful. Remember to keep it fun!

- Try to use real objects as much as possible. Pennies, stones, toy cars, Lego bricks, apples etc can help your child visualise the problem.
- Ask your children questions like 'What would be one more than....?' 'What would be one less than....?' 'How many more do I need to make.....?' as well as addition and subtraction facts like $7+5=?$
- Allow your child to handle money as much as possible in real life situations. Give them a catalogue and ask them to find things they would like to buy and try to work out how much they will cost.
- Introduce your child to measuring in the home: let them measure objects using a tape measure, weigh objects using scales, measure liquids using measuring jugs, time things using a stopwatch or digital clock. In the supermarket or at home, discuss with your child how much of a food is in a packet- how many grams/ millilitres/ litres etc.
- Discuss time with your child- 'What time is it?' 'What time will it be in...minutes?' 'How much longer until....?' Use digital and standard clocks.
- If you have a calculator in the house, allow your child to experiment with it and learn what the buttons do.
- It's never too early to learn times tables. There are lots of ways but these are particularly useful: (Different activities suit different children's learning styles)

If your child likes to listen to Music or stories, find a times tables CD and let them listen and chant/sing along with that.

If your child likes to write or draw, ask them to write out their times tables, or copy them from a chart. They could see how quickly they can write them, or they could write them in a different order.

If your child likes to play games, make a simple times tables game- cards with the question on one side and the answer on the other are great. They can be played with alone or as a 'snap' type game with another child.

If your child is always on the move and never sits still, try to make a game out of times tables. They could say them as they walk along the road or up the stairs, or they could make up silly movements or rhymes to go with each times tables fact. e.g. one times two is two-touch your shoe, two times two is four – lay on the floor, three times two is six- eat some weetabix! They could skip and say the tables as they turn the rope.

Try to make sure your child learns the **whole fact**- e.g. two **times five is ten**, not just the order of the answers 5,10,15,20,25 etc- Children can often recite the answers but don't know their tables.

Avoid giving your child pages of written questions, as at Key Stage 1 the emphasis is more on mental maths.

See the next sheet for some of the methods we use to teach in Key Stage 1.