

Mathematics

Experiences and activities that focus on the two aspects of mathematics should always be enjoyable if young children are to become the mathematician of tomorrow. Helping children to enjoy mathematics is probably one of the most important things that adults can do so that children realise that mathematics is a way of finding things out and solving problems.

Mathematics is one of the four specific learning areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is broken down into two aspects:

Numbers

The children have opportunities to experiment with number in a range of situations in nursery. These include singing number songs and rhymes at group time and using the song bags. They are encouraged to share number stories and books and play counting games and activities.

Throughout the provision, the children are given meaningful reasons to count in everyday situations, such as asking them to select a number of cups at snack time and estimating and counting how many pieces of treasure are going in the jar.



Space, Shape and Measure

To develop the children's understanding of shape we use craft and model making, puzzles, feely bags. We explore 2D shapes and use them to make pictures and patterns.

The children develop their understanding of using shape, space and measures to solve everyday problems.

This is fostered through fun, practical activities, for example, setting up the role play area as a 'Shoe Shop' so that the children can match shoes, sort boxes, measure their feet, use money and a till.

Activities such as these allow the development of mathematical language such as big, small, large/larger, how much? How many?



The children also access practical activities and situations where they use everyday language to describe and weight, capacity, time, position, and distance.