

# Parents and Mathematics

There are many ways that parents can help their children and support the work being done in schools. Sometimes the biggest obstacle to this support is that parents are not sure of **what** to do or **how** to do it. The following topics show how Math's is related to the child's everyday life and give examples of how parents can become involved. These are just examples and can be adapted by schools taking their own personal circumstances into account. There are many websites offering similar help in working with parents.

***\*Using the Search Engine Google, enter Parents and Math's and you will find a good selection of useful sites.***

| At Home   | Out and About   |
|---|---|
| At the table<br>Baking/cooking<br>Bedtime<br>Story time<br>Playing games<br>Bath time | In the Park<br>In the Car<br>In the Shops<br>At the Beach<br>On the Street<br>In the Garden |

| At the Table   | Baking/Cooking  |
|--|---|
| How many people are there?<br>How many knives/forks do we need?<br>Do we have enough/too many?<br>Matching cups to saucers.<br>Where do we put them? (right/ left)<br>Where do the cups go? (in front/behind)<br>If more people came, how many extra would we need?<br>How many spoons altogether? Cutting a cake – fractions, decimals, percentages | Which is full/empty?<br>How many cupfuls/spoonfuls do we need?<br>Shapes of tins/plates<br>Counting the ingredients<br>How much flour do we need?<br>Weight and capacity – compare standard weights<br>Hand-weighing: which feels heavier/lighter?<br>More than/less than – do we need more potatoes for everyone?<br>Do we have enough for each person to each 2 corns on the cob? |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Bed Time</b></p> <p>Toys: How many altogether? How many eyes?<br/>If 1 teddy has 2 eyes, how many would 2 teddies have?</p> <p>Let's count the stairs as we go to bed.<br/>How do we put on our pajamas; one leg first, then the other.</p> <p>Sequence the day – what did we do today?</p> <p>Time: What time did you get up?<br/>Come home from school? Go to bed?<br/>How many minutes/hours?<br/>How long until you have to get up again?</p> | <p><b>Bath time</b></p> <p>Sinking and floating<br/>Up and down: brushing our teeth, drying ourselves.<br/>How far do you think the water goes when we splash?<br/>Is the towel big/small? Big enough? How many towels do we need?<br/>Full/empty – bottles, tubes...<br/>Capacity of shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo...<br/>How much water do you think the bath holds?<br/>How many capfuls to fill the shampoo bottle?<br/>Litres and millilitres</p>  |
| <p><b>In the Car</b></p>  | <p><b>At the shops</b></p>  |
| <p>How many miles/kilometres to the destination?<br/>Destination time – we leave at 11.30 and the journey takes 3 ½ hours.<br/>What time should we arrive?<br/>Signposts – keeping tally of distance travelled<br/>Petrol – cost per litre/5 litres/....<br/>Value for money – compare petrol prices<br/>Capacity of fuel tank</p>  | <p>Do we need a big/small box of cereal?<br/>What shelf are they on – top, middle, bottom?<br/>How many bananas do we have?<br/>6 apples for €1.50. How much each? Find three things that total approximately €5.<br/>Weight /capacity of items<br/>Estimate how many items are in the trolley<br/>Keeping a running tally of cost as items are put in; estimate total<br/>Change: Total cost = €75.69.<br/>How much change will I get from €80/€100?</p> |

**In the garden**

How many flowers/trees can you see?

Let's count the flowers on a shrub.

How long do you think it would take to run from here to there? Let's try it. What shapes can you see – flowerbeds, shed...

Is there enough room on the swing for 2 of us?

Length/area of the garden – estimate and then step/measure.

How tall do you think the tree is? How could we work it out?

**On the street**

How many doors/windows can you count?

What shapes can you see?

If each house had 4 windows, how many could we see on the street?

How many steps from one end to the other?

Count together or estimate. How wide do you think the path is?

How many people could stand from here to the lamppost?

Reading dates, times from posters/advertisements; How long would the concert last? How much would tickets for 2 people cost?

How tall are the buildings?

Reading the phone numbers in a phone box – what's the biggest/smallest number?