



FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL

EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES FOR NUMERACY LEARNING

You can support your child's emerging numeracy knowledge and skills by demonstrating how you use maths every day and through family activities that are fun.

Getting ready for school

Ask your child to find and organise their clothes for school—'Find a matching pair of socks, put them on the bed, get your shoes from under the bed, your uniform is hanging in the wardrobe'; 'Let's pack your lunch box, one apple, three biscuits, two drink bottles, one sandwich cut into two triangles'; 'Remember it's sports day and library tomorrow ...'

At home

Find favourite TV programs together, read the program guide and talk about the times of shows and how the channels are ordered on the remote (first ABC 1, then SBS 3, Channel 7 etc.). Talk about the time when you have breakfast, stories and go to bed; talk about how long until the next birthday and how old the child will be then. Cook food together, weighing, measuring and choosing the right containers. Get your child to help set the table; involve them in sharing out food, asking: 'How will we cut the pizza into four slices? Half and half again, the little pieces are called quarters'. Measure your child on a chart on the wall and talk about how much taller they've grown and how close in height they are to their big brother, uncle or mum.

Going shopping

Ask your child to help you find grocery items and talk about how goods are grouped with similar items in each aisle. Ask them to collect a specific number of apples, oranges, plums. Involve them in loading the trolley—'flat things and heavy things on the bottom'—and to pack items away at home—'rice and sugar goes in here, cleaning goods go in there'. Identify coins when money is counted out at the check-out, talking about the price on the register and how credit cards work and how to 'read' a docket. Consider giving your child a small amount of pocket money to help them learn to save and spend wisely.

In your neighbourhood

Using online maps and directories plan a local walk. Along the way, predict and check house numbers. Involve your child in reading a bus timetable, catching the bus with you and counting out the fare. Using weather charts in newspapers, TV reports and online information; check the weather forecast together and choose appropriate clothing.

Travelling

Involve your child in reading and setting satellite navigation systems where they are available, planning the quickest or least expensive route, e.g. Ask: 'How many drinks will we need for the people in the car? How much will they cost?', 'If we take this route, do we have to pay a toll?' Play games such as 'Let's count all the red cars'. Talk about how far and how long until we get there; talk about relative distances: 'It's 10 kilometres to the post office, but it's 100 kilometres to auntie's in Wodonga; that's much, much further'. Time the journey and compare the travelling time with what was predicted online. Ask: 'What caused the delay—roadworks, lots of food and toilet stops, slow traffic ...?'



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