

# Maths Rhymes & Songs

Songs, rhymes and books play a fundamental role in supporting children's mathematical development. Here are a few key rhymes and songs for you to share with your child:

## Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

<https://youtu.be/fvEtwhui1k0>

## If You're Happy and You Know it

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/something-special-if-youre-happy>

## Incy Wincy Spider

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMfPKUz3hvE>

## 12345 Once I Caught a Fish Alive

<https://youtu.be/ggZi9DDXMIk>

## 2 Little Dicky Birds

<https://youtu.be/aplwz06C5DY>

## One, Two Buckle my Shoe

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-one-two-buckle-my-shoe/zkvtqp3>



Your child is more likely to join in with a song if it is sung regularly! You may want to focus on one rhyme at a time with your child

# Books to promote Maths



# Find out more...

## What to expect, when?

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_2015\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf)

## NRICH Activities for parents and children

<https://nrich.maths.org/14588>

## Number Blocks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks?page=2>

## Cbeebies Helping your child to be epic at maths

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths>

## Siren Films: Maths is more than just numbers

<https://www.sirenfilm.co.uk/courses/maths-is-more-than-just-numbers/>

*"Mathematical experiences for very young children should build largely upon their play and the natural relationships between learning and life in their daily activities, interests and questions."*

Ann-Marie Dibiase. Engaging Young Children in Mathematics: Standards for Early Childhood Mathematics Education



Facebook pages to follow for advice and tips



Start Well Stockport



BBC Tiny Happy People



Number Blocks



STOCKPORT  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Building young Mathematicians

A guide for families



# For the Pre-school year

# Why is Maths important?

Although we may not see ourselves as 'mathematicians', we as adults use Maths all the time. From weighing out ingredients to sorting out the washing, we are constantly interacting with numbers, shapes and measures in our every day life.

In the Early Years, it is important that we help young children to see the purpose in Maths. You can make a big difference to your child's development by playing with your child and simply by talking about the Maths you use in your day to day routine.



"I learn best when I am 'doing'. Maths can be active and fun!"

"Maths does not always have to be indoors. I can learn lots when I play and explore outside!"



"Please praise me for my efforts, not my ability. This will help me to be confident in Maths."



**Maths is everywhere! You will be doing Maths with your child without even realising it!**

# Some key concepts in Early Years Maths

## Shape and Space

Children develop spacial awareness through exploration of their own bodies and objects, and through their varied *physical experiences* in the space around them. You can help child by:

- ✓ Singing action and finger rhymes such as 'round and round the garden and 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes'
- ✓ Creating and building towers and enclosures
- ✓ Modeling strategies for tackling jigsaw puzzles of increasing difficulty, discussing pieces to fit different shaped holes
- ✓ Encouraging young children to follow directions and walk and run through and around objects

## Pattern awareness

Pattern awareness is the first step to understand that the world works in logical and predictable ways. You can help your child by:

- ✓ Exploring patterns in stories, songs and rhymes
- ✓ Talking about patterns you see in your house, on fabric, in the garden and/or local environment
- ✓ Making action and sound patterns together. For example, by clapping and jumping
- ✓ Creating simple repeating patterns using everyday objects

## Counting

Counting is a fundamental skill that children learn in the Early Years. You can help your child by:

- ✓ Playing counting games such as 'hide and seek'
- ✓ Counting out objects in your everyday routine
- ✓ Gathering small collections of objects on number hunts, for example, by finding 3 leaves, 3 sticks etc
- ✓ Sharing small amounts of toys and objects fairly

# Maths is everywhere!

Maths is all around us and can be part of our everyday routine. You can show them how numbers, size, shape and pattern are important in life during the following daily activities:

## Getting dressed...



- ☺ Counting buttons
- ☺ Noticing patterns, shapes and colours on clothes
- ☺ Matching socks
- ☺ Discussing the order in which you are getting dressed

## In the bath...



- ☺ Count the bath toys
- ☺ Sing '5 Little Ducks went Swimming one day
- ☺ Fill different sized containers and discuss which holds more water

## At the shop...



- ☺ Count the food items in the trolley
- ☺ Look out for numerals on labels
- ☺ Compare which shopping bag is the heaviest and the lightest

**You can help your child with Maths even when walking along the street! Just count the objects you see and look out for signs and numerals.**