

Top Tips for Mathematics

Top Tips for the provision of Mathematical learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Maths opportunities are everywhere. Adults/parents should help children take advantage of purposeful maths experiences in everyday situations.
- Properties. Understanding what a shape or a quantity can or cannot do is far more important than knowing its name.
- Problem Solving. If children know the answer or are given the solution, they are not problem solving. Give children problems to solve, not answers to remember.
- Risk taking. Children need to be willing to take risks physically before they develop the confidence to problem solve mentally.
- Process over Product. Higher level learning happens during the process of a child's chosen activity and not from the product of an adult led task (or worksheet).
- Exploring. It is far more important for children to take a risk and have a go, than to have the right answer.
- Questioning. Must be appropriate, why are you asking them? Questions should sustain thinking and should not interrupt or arrest learning. Allow at least 10 seconds for an answer. Listen more, talk less.
- Adults. Adults should regularly model the language of problem solving, 'I wonder if/why/where/what/how...'
- Extending Learning. Regularly introduce resources and experiences in new, different and stimulating ways.
- Breadth and Depth. Be sure to provide a wide range of experiences that allow children to apply and extend their skills in all areas of Maths and at all developmental stages.
- Know Your Children Well. Experiences that are child led and built around children's interests and Characteristics of Effective Learning will have the greatest impact on their learning and achievement.