# Maths at OJS – how to help your child

Parents and carers have a great opportunity to develop their children's maths skills at home by involving them in everyday activities. It helps them to understand maths in real life and develop their basic maths and problem-solving skills, which are really important in the primary curriculum. Here are some ways that you can help your child.

**Start With a Positive Mindset.** Do you ever hear yourself saying "I'm really bad at maths" or "I just didn't get maths in school"? It's difficult to understand just how much children will pick up on any negativity towards particular subjects from their parents. Positivity can go a long way to improving their attitude towards maths!

**Problem Solving.** The KS2 maths curriculum requires pupils to be able to problem solve in maths. As parents/carers, you can help your children practice these skills every day. You can ask your child to tell you which is the best deal at the supermarket or how much their pair of trousers are worth when there is a 30% sale on in a clothes store, or which internet provider has the best deal when you need to switch.

nrich https://nrich.maths.org/

**Play Maths Games Together**. Many games use mathematical and logical skills that your children will need in later life - plus they're fun! Games like jigsaw puzzles help children to develop logical & spatial awareness skills. Board games with dice develop children's counting skills. Other games that may help develop your child's maths skills are cards, darts, scrabble, and chess. Get playing!

**Learn Their Maths Methods**. You can also support your child's learning by getting to grips with the maths they learn, like the grid method and bar modelling. Sometimes parents try to help by teaching their children methods they learned in school which can confuse children. Try instead to learn the method that your child uses.

MyMaths https://login.mymaths.co.uk/login

**Practise Reading the Time** As we move into digital, many children are growing up not reading analogue clocks. Make sure your child practises reading analogue clocks in everyday life, as this is part of the maths curriculum. It's as simple as reading the clock you may walk past on the side of a building or reading a train timetable.

**Use Fractions in Daily Life** Fractions can be simple for you to practise with your child. Simple common fractions can be reinforced at home even if you're not too confident with fractions. Stick to fractions you know such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$. See a window split into four coloured panels? Ask your child "what fraction of the window is coloured in blue?" You don't have to use rounded shapes such as cakes and pizzas to practise fractions, just make sure the separate parts of the shape are all the same size.

**Times Tables: Practise Practise Practise!**

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS https://play.ttrockstars.com/

As everybody knows, it's essential for children to learn their times tables in order to access harder maths questions. This is an easy thing to practise with their children - sneak it in when they're bored! Make car journeys go by faster or distract them on the bus by asking times tables questions. Challenge them to say their times tables backwards if they get bored of reciting them.