

How can you help your child at home?

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/maths-at-home/>

provides skills for developing your child's mathematical skills

Measure

Measuring accurately is a key life skill.

When measuring objects, really encourage your child to take their time and become accurate. (Baking is an excellent way to illustrate this point; have them read the scales and explain that if you aren't accurate the result just won't taste or look right!) As children move into Key Stage 2 they'll be encouraged to measure length to the nearest millimetre. This is also an area of maths where your child will be encouraged to estimate (make a "clever guess") and then check their estimate with an accurate measurement.

Cooking: work together to find the quantities needed. Discuss how you would halve or double the recipe, which could then lead to a discussion on ratio of ingredients. Compare the metric and imperial units.

It's good practice to **encourage children to decide for themselves what units and tools to use to measure with**. They need to consider:

- How large the item is. If it's a small length, for example, would millimetres be more appropriate than metres?
- What is the measurement for? For example, if it's for baking it will need to be very precise and therefore standard units would be better than non-standard.
- Which unit is appropriate for capacity? For length? For weight?
- Estimate length, mass, volume of items (capacity of a mug, weight of an apple etc) and check by measuring accurately.

Discuss how far it is to the shops/ school etc. Use *Map My Walk app* or *Google Maps* to calculate distances.

In Key Stage 2 children learn how to convert various measures (from centimetres to millimetres and metres, for example). These are the facts they'll need to know:

10mm (millimetres) = 1cm (centimetre)

100cm (centimetres) = 1m (metre)

1000m (metres) = 1km (kilometre)

1000g (grams) = 1kg (kilogram)

1000ml (millilitres) = 1l (litre)

Time

Have an analogue clock on display. Practise telling the time linking to digital clocks. Start with analogue clocks rather than digital clocks. Focus on telling time to the hour and half hour.

Talk about the time you go to school or work. Discuss how long it takes to get to a destination. Work out what time you need to leave the house to reach there at a certain time. Use am and pm and a digital clock.

Draw attention to time. Mention the time at different points in the day. 'It's 5 o'clock: time for tea.' 'It's 7 o'clock: time for a bath.'

Do fun activities that include measuring time:

- use a timer for baking
- play a board game with a sand timer
- use a stop watch to time a race or challenge

Make sure your child is confident with counting from 1-60 as this will make telling the time easier. Practising the five times table will also help.

Put a clock in your child's bedroom. Ideally it should have a clear hour hand and minute hand as this will help them to understand that the short hand shows the hour and the long hand shows the minutes.

Talk about what you regularly do at different times in the day. Compare and contrast weekdays and weekends. Use time vocabulary such as today, yesterday, now, afterwards.

Let your child remind you that it's time to do something!

Ask what time is your favourite TV programme on? How long does it last? What channel is it on? What programme is showing on two different channels at the same time?

Money

Look at coins/notes - discuss value. Find equivalent values with different coins e.g how many different ways can you make 50p.

Shopping: discuss the cost of items and how the cost might change if you buy two items instead of one. Let your child count out the coins when paying and discuss the change you should get back. If you see any items labelled, for example, '2 for £3.50', ask them to work out the cost of 1 item for you, and to explain how they got the answer.

Ask children to think of something that you would really like to buy and find out how much the item would cost

- *Work out how much you would need to save each week and how long it would take you to save up for it.*
- *How much money would you have left after buying it?*

Think of the people in your family and your closest friends. Using catalogues, magazines or the internet look at presents that you would like to buy for them.

- *What present will you buy for each person?*
- *How much will it cost?*
- *How much money will you need altogether?*
- *How long will it take you to save up this amount?*
- *How many presents will you buy altogether?*
- *How much money will you have left over?*