



Maths at home with children in Years 3-6: A guide for families

There are many ways to support your children to develop a positive view of mathematics and numeracy. These activities are suitable for children in Years 3-6.

Through play

- ▶ Explore maths through sports.
 - ▶ How is the game scored?
 - ▶ How do they tally points?
 - ▶ How do you find the total of all scores?
 - ▶ Who is at the top of the competition ladder?
 - ▶ How is that worked out?
 - ▶ How long is a game?
 - ▶ Is it divided into halves and quarters?
 - ▶ How could you estimate the perimeter or area of the pitch?
 - ▶ How many cars could you park on the oval?
- ▶ Play games, e.g. chess, Monopoly, Yahtzee, Dominoes, Checkers, Connect 4, Number Boggle and Uno.
- ▶ Complete puzzles, e.g. tangrams, jigsaws, Sudoku and KenKen maths puzzles.
- ▶ Paper folding and origami. Create paper planes using angles, shapes, halving or symmetry, then fly them and measure distances using metric units. Construct three dimensional shapes or origami models.
- ▶ Play with fractions at home.
 - ▶ Can you show me halves and quarters when you cut your food?
 - ▶ What percentage of the glass is full?
 - ▶ Why are there halves and quarters in time?

Shopping, the kitchen and outdoors

- Explore the cost of items using catalogues, e.g. How would you spend \$30? How many items could you buy for \$30? Chose 5 items, how much would they cost if they were 50% off? What is the best value? Why?
- Compare the price of one item at different shops, why are items more expensive in some places? How can you work out how much it will cost if it is 10% or 20% cheaper?
- Measure when cooking, e.g. talk about fractions, millilitres and grams.
- When using recipes help your child make accurate measurements using cups, spoons, measuring jugs etc.
- Find the temperature and cooking time, why do some ingredients need to cook for longer than others?
- Discuss time and fractions, e.g. How would you double/halve a recipe? Why would you do this? Ask your child to record the new measurements?
- Guess how much ingredients cost, create a shopping list and a budget. Is it better to get takeaway or cook at home? Why?
- View and discuss weather recordings, e.g. record temperature and rainfall and graph over time.
- Discuss maximum and minimum temperatures e.g. are there any patterns with weather and seasons?
- Compare the 7-day weather forecast with what actually happens, was the forecast correct/accurate?
- What was similar or different?

Through conversation

Talking about maths with your child helps them develop understanding and confidence. Ask them to explain their thinking and avoid giving them the answer before they try to work it out themselves. They may reach the correct answer using a strategy that is different to the one you use.

- Use metric units for measurements, e.g. one litre of milk, 1 kg of flour or when travelling, 1 kilometre or 100 kms, and talk about abbreviations.
- Ask questions when travelling, e.g. how long will it take us to travel to Alice Springs or Katherine?
- Discuss timetables.
 - Can you find our bus stop in the timetable?
 - What is the earliest, or latest time you could catch the bus?
 - How long does it take to travel from home to school?
 - How many stops are there?
 - To get to school or sport on time, what time will you need to leave?
- Give your child a piggy bank and discuss saving money.
 - How much will it cost for us to go to Alice Springs for a holiday?
 - How long will it take for you to save enough for...?
 - If I gave you 5% more pocket money each week, how much would you get?
 - If you save 40% of your pocket money each week, how much would you have after a month?

Free online resources to support maths at home

[The Mathematics Hub Families](https://www.mathematicshub.edu.au/families/)

<https://www.mathematicshub.edu.au/families/>

[Online number games and activities](https://www.abc.net.au/education/subjects-and-topics/maths/)

<https://www.abc.net.au/education/subjects-and-topics/maths/>

[Dr. Paul Swan's Excellence in Mathematics website](https://drpaulswan.com.au/)

<https://drpaulswan.com.au/>

[Bureau of Meteorology for weather information](https://www.bom.gov.au/nt/)

<https://www.bom.gov.au/nt/>

[Northern Territory Bus Timetables and Maps](https://cdcnorthernterritory.com.au/travel-info/timetables-and-maps/)

<https://cdcnorthernterritory.com.au/travel-info/timetables-and-maps/>

[Create Origami Models](https://www.origami.guide/)

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