

Area of Learning:

Mathematical Development

This area of learning is all about developing mathematical skills to build the foundations for all future mathematical learning. This includes:

- Counting;
- Sorting;
- Matching;
- Finding patterns;
- Working with numbers;
- Shapes and space;
- Measures.

Children will experience mathematics through practical investigations, stories, songs, games and role play.

What activities will they experience in settings to develop mathematical skills?

- A rich number environment will be created with numbers and equipment. Making children number aware, number lines, dominoes, counting rhymes, number games.
- Encourage children to estimate, count and order numbers to 10 and beyond.
- Use mathematical language for example "more", "less", "share", "fewer", "how many", "altogether", "count on"
- Use real objects - boxes, tins, toys to illustrate and feel 3D shapes, cubes, cuboids. Sort 2D shapes - triangles, square, circle, rectangles. Make models and pictures using 2D and 3D shapes
- Children through sand and water play will experience weight and capacity - be able to order two items - heaviest/lightest.
- Use bricks to build towers and find the shortest and tallest.

How can I help my child at home?

- Encourage your child to observe that numbers are everywhere - house numbers, road signs, prices, television, number plates.
- Ask your children to help sort washing into colours.
- Make patterns with everyday objects - eg. spoon, fork, knife, or count out the cutlery needed at meal times.
- Look for shapes in the home, in the street, in the shop and toys.
- Talk about the size of clothes, shoes, compare with adults, brothers, sisters.
- Count items - the stairs, toys, books, fingers, toes.
- At bath time provide children with containers to experiment with capacity - developing concepts like full and empty.
- Talk about the days of the week. The time - bedtime, dinnertime etc