



Supporting Your 4 - 5 Year Old Child in

Maths

Parent Advice Booklet

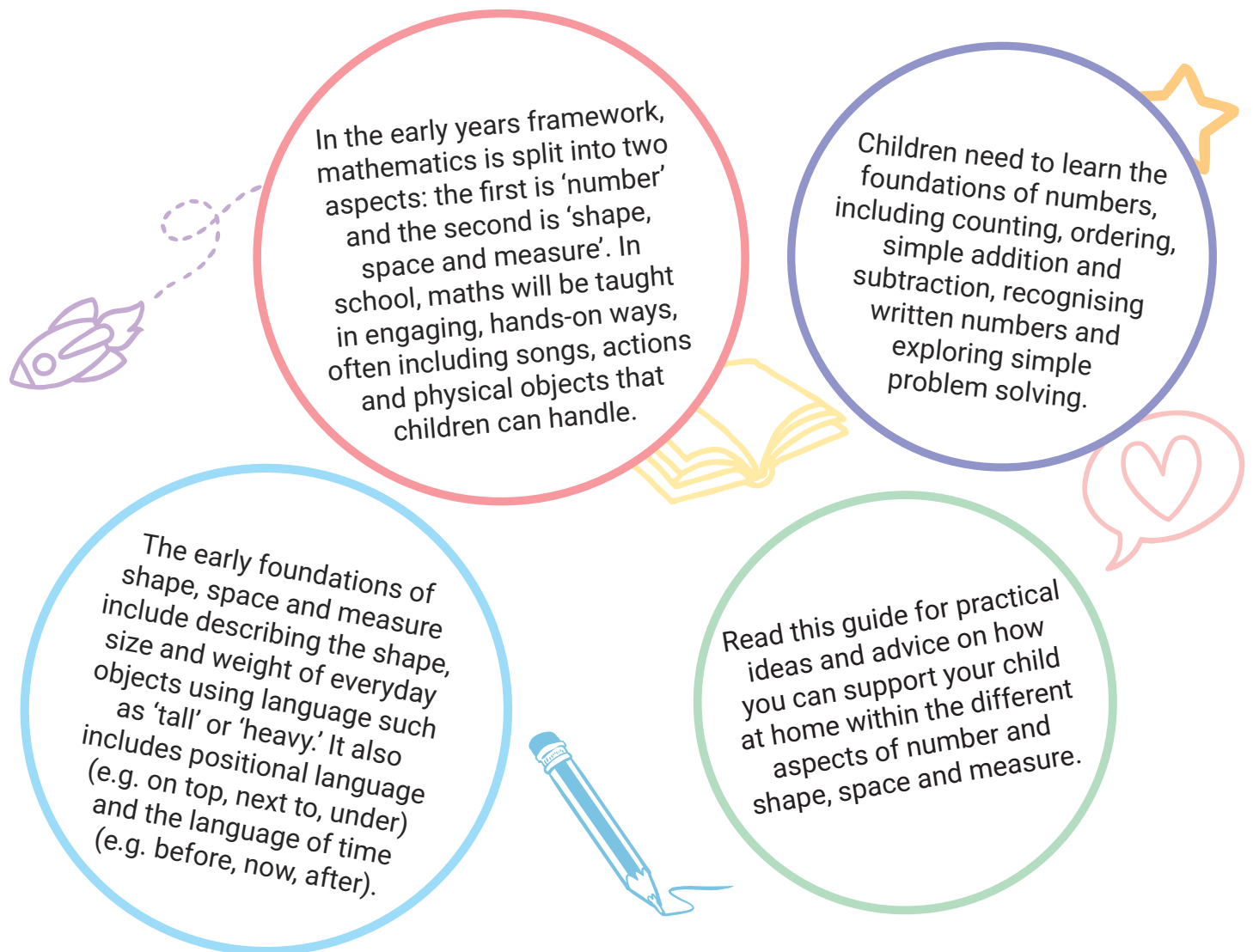
What Is This Guide?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in their knowledge of numbers and counting as part of their mathematical understanding. This guide can help you understand what that development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down the EYFS framework into sections and statements, providing you with simple explanations of what we call 'early maths' and how it typically looks for this age group. Each area has ideas for supporting your child through fun and engaging activities, whether your child is only just beginning to recognise numbers within the environment or they are more confident with their counting.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.

You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in early maths, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the early years section.



Children develop rapidly in their first five years, more so than any other period of their young life. Although these guides have been divided by age band, we recognise that all children develop at different rates; this guide should not be used as a tick list of exactly what your child should be able to do at this age, but rather as an indicator of what they may be working towards.

Number Recognition and Counting

During reception, your child will take part in lots of learning about counting. Children will learn to count in a variety of ways, but always practically and hands-on. They may count the cups during snack time, how many children there are in total that day or the dots on a dice during a game. It is important at this stage that children are physically touching the objects that they are counting; as an adult, you can support your child's learning by assisting with any misconceptions until they are confident with independently counting and ordering objects and numbers from 1-20.

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

recognising some numerals of personal significance.

point out numbers that you see each day, e.g. your house number, numbers on buttons and street signs.

recognising numerals 1 to 5.

play games involving number cards so that your child becomes more familiar with numbers in print form.

counting up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item.

model counting everything during your normal day to day routines.

counting actions or objects which cannot be moved.

count characters or objects in books, the spots on a dice or items on a list. Pointing to each thing as you count.

counting objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10.

encourage your child to count how many toys go into each box to practice counting to 10 and beyond.

Number Recognition and Counting

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

counting out up to six objects from a larger group.

give your child a group of objects, e.g. pencils, apples, balls and ask them to give you 6 of them.

selecting the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects.

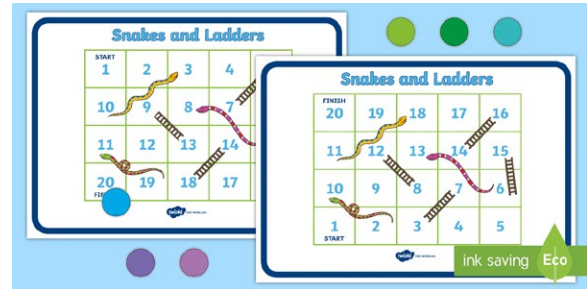
use number cards to label how many of something you have. Count the objects together to see how many and then support your child to select the correct number card.

counting reliably with numbers from one to 20, placing them in order and is able to say which number is one more or one less than a given number.

sing songs with counting in to encourage your child to count forwards and backwards. Number puzzles or magnets are also great for ordering numbers and saying one more or one less.

Number Recognition and Counting

How is your little one progressing with numbers?



Snakes and Ladders Board Game

Board games not only promote turn taking and patience, but often involve lots of counting forwards and backwards or counting the dots or numbers on dice.

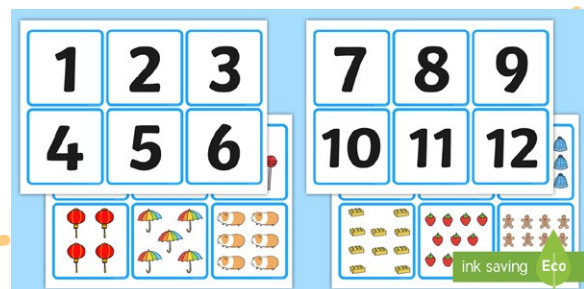
Use maths in the kitchen! Cutting fruit can be a great way to discuss halving and sharing. Why not let your child count out ingredients as they're added or estimate how many tins are in the cupboard and count them all to check!

Hopscotch or a number track can be drawn on a pavement outside using chunky chalks to practise hopping and counting at the same time. What other movements can your child count? How about steps, stairs or jumps?

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Penguin Number Ordering Activity



Number Matching Cards

Addition and Subtraction, Estimation and Problem Solving

Once confident with recognising numbers and counting physical objects, children may begin to use the language involved with simple addition and subtraction. At school, children are introduced to the symbols for these concepts (e.g. +, - and =). They will also begin to learn about other mathematical concepts such as estimation, finding one more and one less and understanding doubling and halving.

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

using the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects.

model comparing amounts where possible, during meal times, for example, you could point out who has more. You could also discuss more and fewer by sharing toys.

finding the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them.

use toys during play to say how many you have when you add two groups altogether, e.g. 'We have 3 giraffes and 4 lions, that's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 animals altogether!'

using simple tools to effect change to materials.

create a number line on the floor (chalks on a pavement work well). Get your child to jump across them and then use this tool to practice jumping forwards and backwards to find one more and one less.

finding one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects.

encourage finding one more and one less during play, e.g. 'you have 4 red trains, how many will you have if I give you 1 more?'

Addition and Subtraction, Estimation and Problem Solving

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

estimating how many objects they can see and can check by counting them.

hide some toys under a blanket, lift the blanket for a few seconds then re-cover. Can your child guess how many toys there were? Lift the blanket and ask your child if they can now count them all and say how many there are in total.

using the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting, in practical activities and discussion.

use the vocabulary of addition and subtraction during everyday activities to encourage your child to do the same.

recording, using marks that they can interpret and explain.

model writing down numbers and recording your ideas. Encourage your child to keep score with lines or dots during a game.

identifying their own mathematical problems based on their own interests and fascinations.

notice when your child notices and uses number during their play, e.g. 'I have 5 cars but only 2 garages, I'll have to build 3 more!'

using quantities and objects to add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.

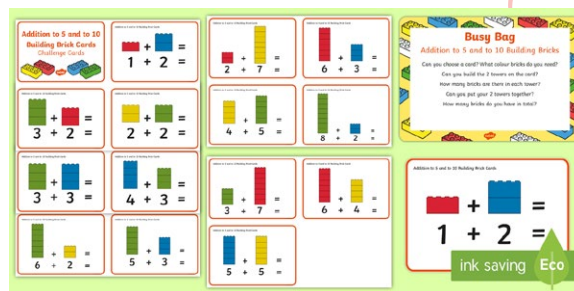
use toys or building bricks to practice solving simple addition and subtraction problems, counting the objects as you go.

solving problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

introduce concepts such as doubling, halving and sharing through dividing things such as toys, fruit and drinks.

Addition and Subtraction, Estimation and Problem Solving

How is your little one progressing with addition, subtraction, estimation and problem solving?

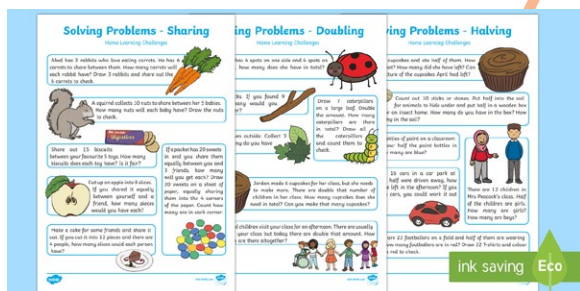


Building Brick Prompt Cards

Introduce simple maths problems during everyday routines and playtimes, such as counting all the grapes and all the slices of cucumber to see how many there are total. You can add together almost anything - toys, clothes, cups or cutlery.

Encourage your child to keep score during games using lines or dots on paper to track points. Can they count an individual player's final score? Can they count how many points were scored overall?

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



EYFS Problem-Solving Prompts

Shape

At this stage, your child may already be familiar with the names of some simple 2D shapes. At school, children will be encouraged to recognise and name simple 2D and 3D shapes and begin to use mathematical language to describe them, e.g. 'straight,' 'pointy' and 'curved.' Children work towards describing both physical objects and images of different shapes.

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes.

encourage recognising and naming shapes in your everyday environment. Supermarkets are particularly great for 3D shapes, e.g. tins and cartons of different shapes and sizes.

selecting a particular named shape.

play games or complete puzzles with your child, which have an element of shape to them.

using familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models.

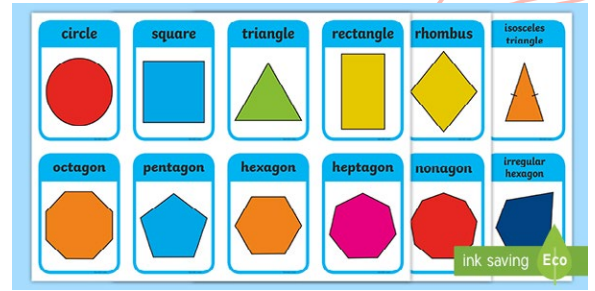
use recycled materials from around your home to make models with your child or make patterns with beads or sequins.

recognising, creating and describing patterns. They can explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

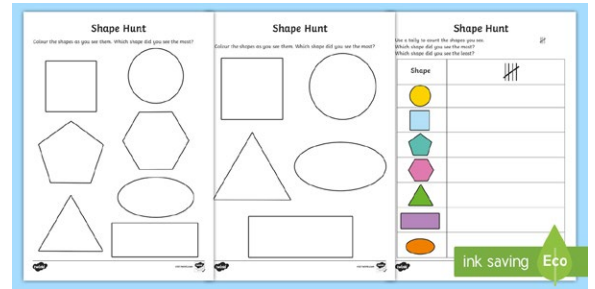
Use the language of shape and pattern in everyday life, encouraging your child to do the same.

Shape

How is your little one progressing with shapes?

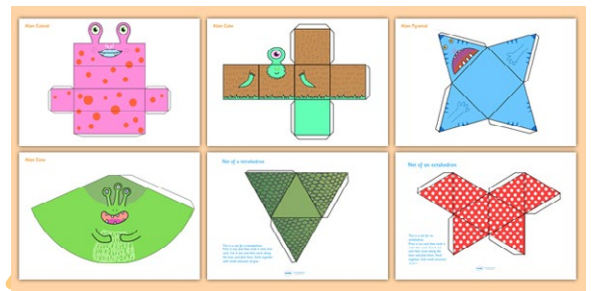


2D Shape Flashcards



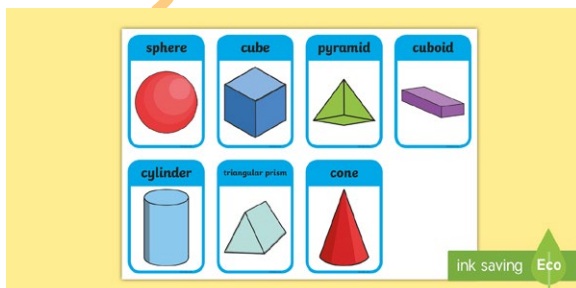
Shape Hunt Worksheet

Use a bag or pillowcase to hide 2D or 3D objects (tins, small boxes and tubes work well). Take turns with your child to reach inside the bag to feel the shape - can they guess what shape is in the bag based on how it feels?



3D Shape Nets

Building blocks are a great opportunity to introduce mathematical language during play. Why not have a chat about the shapes you can see, e.g. 'This cube has six square faces.'



3D Shape Flashcards

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?

Space and Measure

At this age, children are taught the concept of measure through simple concepts such as heavy and light, big and small or empty and full. Through practical activities, children will learn how to compare objects based on their size, weight or length and place them in order according to these properties.

Although your child may not yet understand units of measure (i.e. metres, litres and kilograms), they may begin experimenting with using measuring apparatus such as weighing scales, measuring jugs and rulers.

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

describing their relative position such as 'behind' or 'next to'.

encourage your child to use everyday positional language to describe where they are.

ordering two or three items by length or height.

ask your child to see if they can order two or three of their toys according to their size or length.


using everyday language related to time.

use language related vocabulary at home all of the time, e.g. 'later' 'tomorrow' 'soon' and 'next week'.

beginning to use everyday language related to money.


allow your child to pay for an item in a shop. Can they tell you how much it is? Can they say how many coins they will need?

Space and Measure




At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...




ordering and sequencing familiar events.

print off photographs of a recent trip or period of time, can your child place them in order according to when they happened?



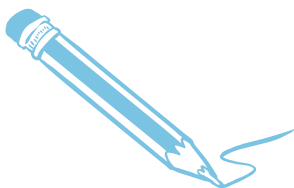

measuring short periods of time in simple ways.

encourage your child to time you during an activity by counting, using a sand timer or stopwatch.



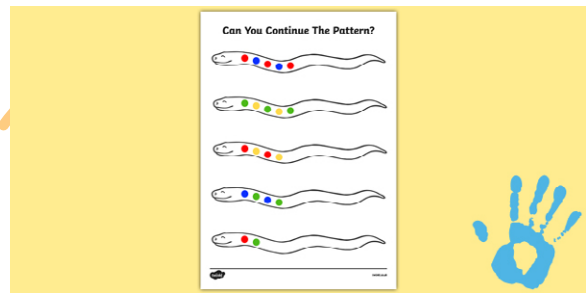
using everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.

provide your child with lots of opportunities to talk about shape, space and measure through practical activities such as cooking, shopping, sports and play.



Space and Measure

How is your little one progressing with space and measure?

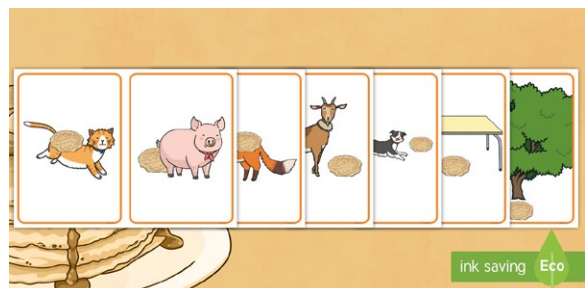


Snake Worksheet

Have fun ordering and describing repeating patterns with fruit kebabs! Why not use three different fruits to make a pattern? Support your child by making an example or two and encouraging them to think of their own patterns.



Building Brick Pattern Challenge Cards

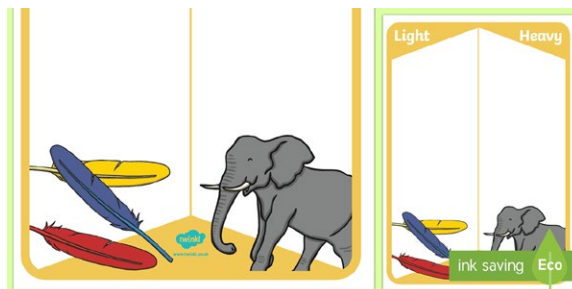


Matching Positional Cards

Space and Measure



You can practise positional language with a favourite toy and a cardboard box. Place the toy in different positions such as under, on top of, next to, behind or in front of the box. Can your child describe where it is?



Heavy and Light Chart

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Different Sized Fruits



Support and Challenge


After reading this guide and trying out some of the activities with your child, you may find that they require more support with some activities than others. This is perfectly OK; some concepts are more difficult than others and with more practice, your child should begin to make more progress. On the other hand, if your child is able to do most of these activities easily, then perhaps they need a challenge?

If your child isn't quite ready for some of the activities in this guide, take a look at the Parent Guide to Maths for Ages 3 - 4 and try some of the ideas listed in there first and develop their self-confidence.



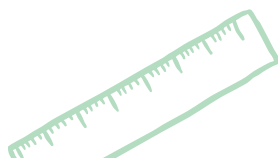

If your child seems to be beyond the activities and skills in this guide, you may be wondering how you could help them further? The most important thing is to incorporate maths into your everyday lives in meaningful and purposeful ways. This will give your child plenty of opportunities to apply their knowledge of maths to real-life situations, e.g. counting items in the basket at the supermarket, using money to pay for things, noticing key times on the clock and helping out with measuring ingredients independently when cooking. Alternatively, you can always find more resources on the **Twinkl Parents hub**.





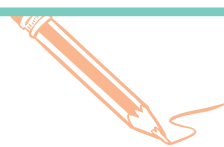
Explore and Discover More



Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

