

Helping your child to be ready for school - fun with maths

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Tips for parents and carers



Harlow Council
Working together for Harlow

**We use maths every day
both at work and at home.**

- Going shopping, sorting the washing or baking. Encourage your child to join in with you.
- Children learn from you so talk about what you are doing and make them feel involved.
- Make it into a game, for example how many socks can you find in the washing basket?
- Can you find the biggest plate?
- How many cups do we need for the table?
- If we take one away how many have we got left?



**Remember to
make it fun**

**Use number language
whenever you can.**

- Children learn about maths from books, stories, measuring, pouring, sharing and much more. There are many ways in which you can support your child's learning through play.
- Helping your child to learn these skills can be done through play and everyday routines.
- Use the toys your child is most interested in to increase their understanding of maths, for example what number is on the bus?
- Count forwards and backwards as often as you can - climbing the stairs or walking along the pavement.
- Use role play to count money and give change.

**Children learn best
through play**

- Say and sing number rhymes and counting songs together
- Make counting fun by counting cars, pencils and buses etc.
- How many spots on the dice? Can you find the matching number?
- Compare sizes. The small car, the big truck, the small doll, the big teddy etc.
- Add size and numbers in familiar stories and rhymes such as The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
- Encourage your child to sort objects for example, by putting all the blue cars together and counting how many they have.



**Enjoy maths
with your child**

Shapes are everywhere

- Make books about shapes.
- Have a shape hunt around the home or garden.
- Point out shapes to your child when you are out and about.
- Do simple puzzles together - ask, "will this shape fit here?"
- Sort by shapes.
- Cut out different shapes.



**Children learn
from you**

The Harlow Pledge for Educational Attainment:



Supporting every Harlow child to aspire, learn and achieve

We, the Harlow Strategic Partnership for Educational Attainment, pledge to work together to give every Harlow child every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

To achieve this we will support every child and family:

- Before school – ensuring that every child starts school equipped with the skills to learn*
- At school – helping schools to improve where required to provide the very best education for every child*
- Post-16 supporting opportunities to ensure that every young person can carry on learning and achieve their full potential*

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