



Top Tips for Practising

Maths

(Ages 3 - 4)

Maths for 3 - 4 Year Olds

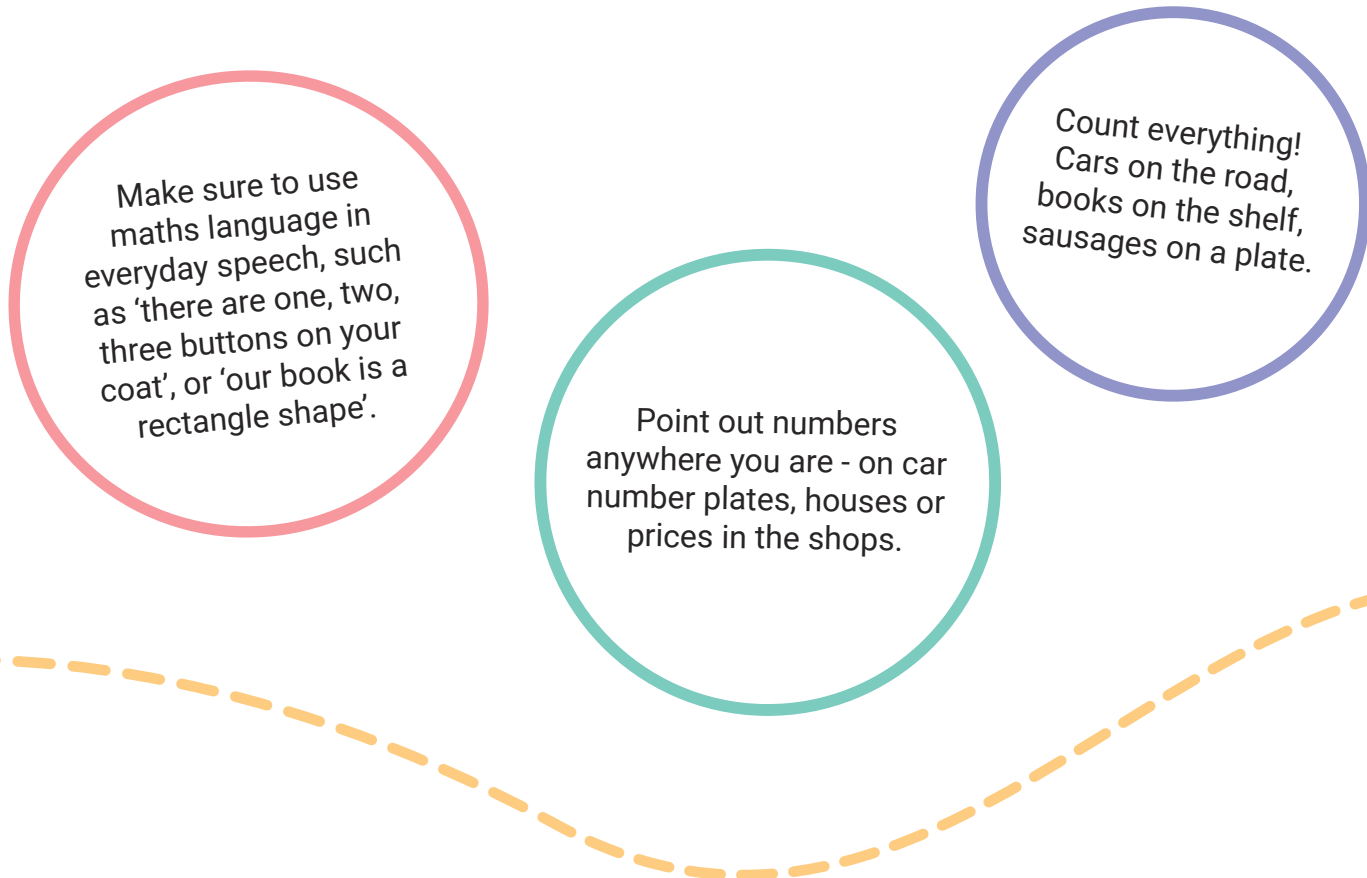
There are lots of practical and easy ways you can encourage your child to develop their maths skills every day.

With children aged three to four, you could practise **number recognition** up to five, discuss **real-world** maths problems such as 'how many apples do I need if both you and I want one?', explore **2D shapes** and point out **simple patterns**. **Positional language** (e.g. 'the television is in front of the sofa', 'the bag is under the table') is also good to develop at this age.

These top tips are here to give you some ideas on how you could explore these areas further.

Please remember, this is not a checklist - it is here to guide you and your child in a **fun and beneficial** way.

Quick Ways to Practise Maths:



Make sure to use maths language in everyday speech, such as 'there are one, two, three buttons on your coat', or 'our book is a rectangle shape'.

Point out numbers anywhere you are - on car number plates, houses or prices in the shops.





Count everything!
Cars on the road,
books on the shelf,
sausages on a plate.

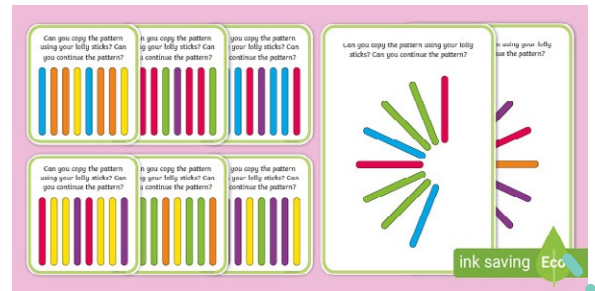
Over 2020 and 2021, a new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (or framework) was released and has become statutory for all nurseries and reception classes. These guides, though based on some of the milestones laid out by that new framework, are designed as general guidance and not a solid indication of what is taught in a formal school setting.

For more information about the new framework reforms (introduced 2021), you can use these resources:

- [New EYFS Reforms Parent and Carer Information Sheet](#)
- [Development Matters 2021 \(Official Document\)](#)
- [EYFS Statements Summarised](#)

You can also find tips and guidance for other skills or ages in our [Parent Guides](#) category.

Key	
Number Recognition	
Shapes	
Positional Language	
Simple Patterns	



Lolly Stick ABBC Pattern Cards

Add foam or sponge numbers to the bath and ask your child to put them in order.



Paint with home-made stamps in different shapes - you could use a sponge as a rectangle, half a potato as an oval, the bottom of a cup as a circle.

In, up, under, on, besides, between, behind, in front - make sure to use terms like these in everyday conversations, such as "your shoes are under the chair", "lunch is on the table".

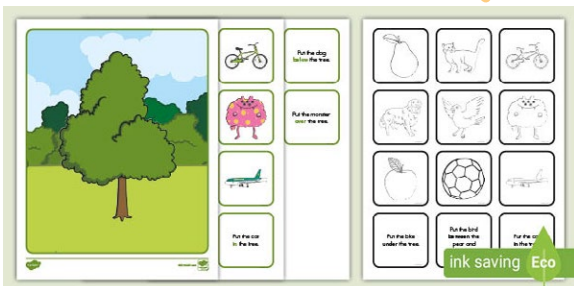


Play with building blocks and discuss the properties of each shape, e.g. "this cube has square faces and they each have four sides".





Make patterns with items you find in the garden and ask your child to continue them - stick, leaf, stick, leaf...

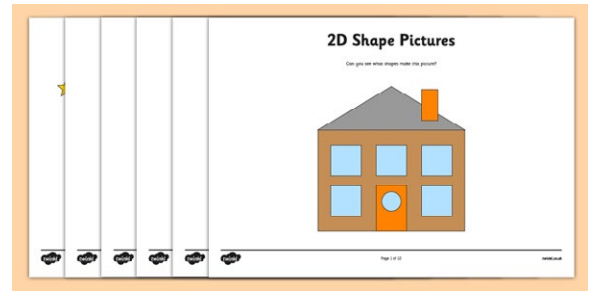


Collect a pile of objects (e.g pencils, small toys or buttons) and ask your child to pull out a certain number - "can you pull out three pencils?".



Positional Language Tree Game

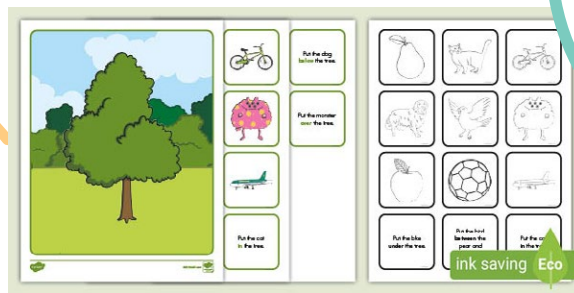
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Pictures of Different Kinds of Shapes - 2D Activity Pack

Play 'Simon Says' using commands like "stand next to the tree", "put your hands on top of your head" or "stand behind the bench".

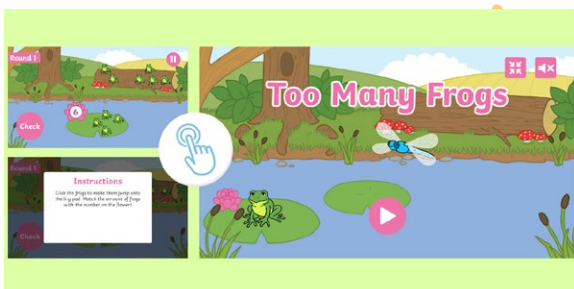
Create fruit skewers in patterns and encourage your child to make their own or complete yours, e.g. grape, orange, grape, orange...



Ladybird Bingo (0-10) - Minibeasts

Play 'I Spy a Shape' while at home or out and about, e.g. "I Spy with my little eye something that is a circle shape".

Go on a Number Scavenger Hunt! Walk around the neighbourhood and try to locate numbers in order to 10 ("number 1 is on our front door, number 2 is on the car on the driveway, number 3 is on the neighbour's house").



Too Many Frogs: Counting up to 10 Game