Maths strategies

- Pop stickers onto your stairs – this could be for simple counting or for any times tables.

- Talk about maths in the real world:

Around the house

Cooking: try recipes, measure ingredients and set the timer together.

Time: talk about how long it takes to get to school, what time we need to be there, what time we need to leave the house.

Size and shape: use plasticine or building bricks to make different shapes; order them by size.

In the newspaper: look for where numbers are used in news articles, adverts, weather forecasts, job adverts. Talk about how numbers are used in money, percentages, probability, graphs and charts.

Out and about

Number hunt: find as many numbers as you can on signs, in shops, on doors or buses, etc.

Counting: count the things you can see – how many people are in the queue? How many red cars can you spot?

Plan journeys: talk about distance, time and directions.

Estimate: talk about the local area and estimate how many houses are on the street, how many people live in the town, or how far away the nearest town is.

Games

Card games: lots of card games involve numbers. Try playing matching games or snap, or draw cards and aim to get as close to 21 as possible without going 'bust'.

Building blocks: talk about the size and shape of the blocks and make patterns.

I Spy: play the game by spying numbers and shapes.

Board games: try games like Connect 4, Snakes & Ladders, Monopoly or any games that involve throwing dice to move around the board.

Hobbies

Sports: talk about the numbers in your child's favourite sports. How many goals or points are needed to win or to get promoted? Talk about time, distance, shapes on the pitch, etc.

Dance: count the beats in the music and point out the shapes, patterns and symmetry dancing makes.

Television: look out for numbers in popular TV shows. Point out how contestants measure ingredients on baking shows. Add up the scores on dancing shows.

Taken from Nationalnumeracy.org.uk

- Count and estimate - Every day, you are likely to come across plenty of opportunities to use mathematical language around topics such as counting or estimating. For instance:
  - How many cornflakes are in the bowl?
  - How many books are on the shelf?
  - What is the volume of this box?
  - What are the dimensions of the TV?
  - Estimate then measure – how close were you?

  Once you start practising and looking around your home, more and more will occur to you. Who was the second person you saw today? How many different rectangles can you see in this room?

- Cook - Many recipes assume that there are exactly four people per meal. But often you will need to adapt this for fewer (or more) people. This is an ideal time to engage your child with some scaling and proportion work: "It says 500g of butter for four, but what if there are 5 of us?" and so on. Using and reading scales on weights and containers is fabulous maths, and a key life skill. Capacity, mass, time, temperature – cooking allows you to talk with your child about all of these in a meaningful and natural context.

- Shop - Whether shopping online or in person, shopping has almost unlimited potential to engage your children purposefully. Thinking about things such as:
  - which deal is best value
  - multi-buy savings
  - value for money of differing sizes of the same product