

## Mathematics and Numeracy at home

As your child's first teacher, you play an important role in helping develop their numeracy skills from an early age.

Numeracy skills give children an important start to their learning and development. They also help prepare them for daily life at all ages. For example, in handling money and problem solving.

Numeracy is more than numbers. For example, numeracy helps us:

- understand and use numbers and other mathematical ideas in everyday life
- recognise and use shape
- work out the chance of something happening
- understand the data we see in the media.

Numeracy is necessary for everyday living. From daily activities like telling the time, cooking and setting the table to more difficult tasks such as understanding mobile phone plans, planning a trip, reading a map and understanding timetables.

**Below are some activity ideas you can do with your child at home.**

### Estimating

- Estimate the number of lollies/biscuits in a jar
- Estimate the crowd at large sporting events
- Estimate how long it will take to drive/walk to a particular point

### Weighing

- Compare the size and weight of objects in the supermarket
- Weigh ingredients when you are cooking. Cooking is a great way to learn mathematics!
- Use the language of heavy, lighter when comparing objects

### Time

- Reading timetables
- Asking time calculations (how long until bedtime? How long until your next birthday?)
- Examining use by dates

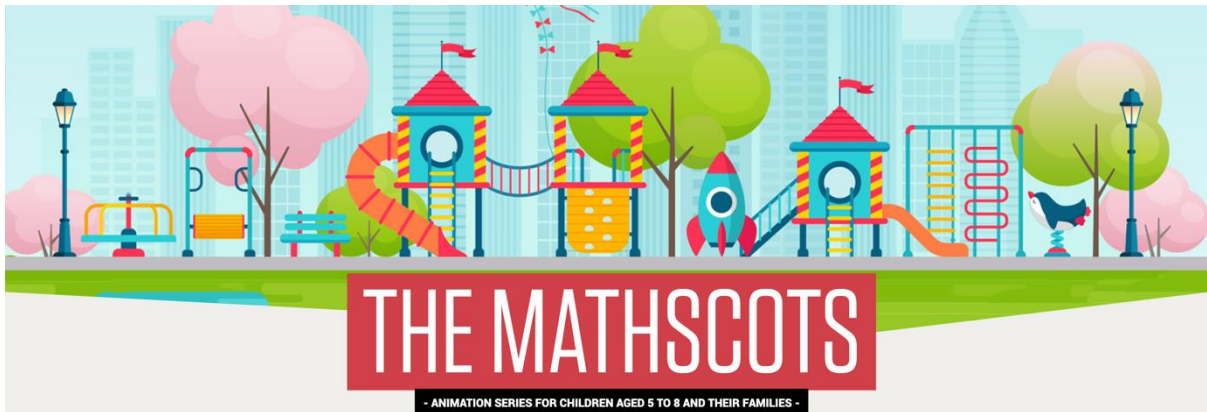
### Number facts

- Knowing number facts is very useful for the future mathematical studies of your children. You can help by taking an interest and by giving them practice. There are a number of important elements about learning tables and number facts.
- First is that all the number facts come in families. If the children know, for example, that  $5 + 2 = 7$  is the same as  $2 + 5 = 7$  and relates to  $7 - 2 = 5$  and  $7 - 5 = 2$ , then they know a lot of facts. The same is true for multiplication. If they know that  $5 \times 4 = 20$ , they also know  $4 \times 5 = 20$ ,  $20 \div 5 = 4$  and  $20 \div 4 = 5$ .
- Next they need to learn general principles such as adding 1, adding 2, doubles, near doubles ( $5+6$  is the same as  $5+5+1$ ), adding 10, adding 9 (by adding 10 and taking

away 1). For multiplication they can learn about doubling (x by 2), multiplication by 10, 5, 4, 3, first, then the rest.

- When working on other multiplication facts focus on strategies rather than memorising. For example, for the 9s facts use the 10s facts minus 1 group. So,  $9 \times 6$ . Think  $10 \times 6 = 60$ , -6 is 54

## Mathscots



The Victorian Education Department have released a fantastic animation series called Mathscots. The series has been developed to support numeracy development at home. You can access the series by clicking on the [link](#)

## Basic facts

A great resource where you can practise the basic facts can be accessed through this [link](#). You can customise the interactive to work with many different types of fundamental facts. When you use this with your child ensure that you set the 'cut off' timer to 1 day. It is important for children to see that being good at maths is not about being quick. Rather, focus on meaningful strategies to work things out.

## You don't need to be "good at maths" to help your children with their maths

Doug Clarke (a mathematics educator) wrote a fantastic news article offering advice to parents on how they can help their child with numeracy. [Click here](#) to read the article

## References

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/Pages/maths-and-numeracy-at-home.aspx>

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<https://www.abc.net.au/cm/lb/13676026/data/acu-guide-for-parents-with-maths-2020-data.pdf>

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