

Family Maths Resources

A core component of the Schools & Families Programme is to encourage family involvement in maths activities at home. National Numeracy have designed a suite of Family Maths activities for Reception to Year 6.

Activities

Each year group pack has approximately one activity per week and come with an overview so teachers can plan out how to link the activities to classroom teaching. Year groups are not labelled on the activity sheets, so teachers can dip in and out of different packs for differentiation. All activities are linked to the National Curriculum and are related to seasonal events, holidays, and everyday maths.

Most of the activities are open-ended and are not seeking a single, correct answer. This allows families to explore the activity with less pressure and anxiety and can take the learning in different directions. Each activity has space for both parents/carers and pupils to comment on how they find the activity. For younger pupils, this might simply be a smiley face.


Scrapbooks


Every participating pupil will receive a National Numeracy scrapbook. Activities can then be stuck into the scrapbook. We recommend printing activities in either A4 or A5 size. The scrapbook consists of blank pages. This is to encourage different forms of recording and no specific method is needed to explore the activity. Unlimited space gives the pupil the opportunity to develop perseverance.

Getting families involved

One of the aims of the Family Maths activities is to encourage positive maths conversations at home and increase levels of parental engagement. For this to be successful, it is important that aims of the activities and overall project are communicated with families. Schools can use the communications materials provided to inform parents/carers.


We recommend planning carefully how to launch the activities with families. Many schools have previously had success with whole school events and inviting parents/carers in to complete an activity with their children. Continued positive promotion is important, such as through newsletters, displays and certificates.


At the zoo


 Family Maths Toolkit

At the zoo, there are many different types of animals. Some have 2 legs, some have 4 legs, some have more than 4 legs and some have none at all!

Can you and your family think of all the zoo animals you like and count how many fit into each group according to how many legs they have? You could draw a picture, a pictogram, a tally chart, bar charts or a table. Could you think of an animal for each group? Which group had the most? How many more had 4 legs than had no legs?





Parent comments:

Pupil comments:

Curriculum Link

Collect, organise and compare information using pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams or simple tables.

Marking and Feedback

There is no expectation for teachers to mark the activities, but an acknowledgement (small effort comment or sticker) can go far when encouraging parental engagement.

National Numeracy have provided schools with a certificate to give to participating pupils. This could be used in weekly celebration assemblies.

National Numeracy reporting

Project leads are required to report to National Numeracy the level of engagement from both pupils and parents/carers. It is important that teachers track how many pupils are completing activities and how many parents/carers are engaging at home.

Barriers to participation

National Numeracy recognise that some parents/carers and pupils may have additional barriers when completing the activities. We have listed some ideas to support these families.

SEND

- The year group is not specified on the activity. Teachers can draw on activities from different year groups for differentiation.
- Most of the activities are open-ended, and learning can be taken in different directions that both the pupil and parent/carer feel comfortable with.

EAL

- Before sending the activity home, teachers should go through the activity with all pupils.
- Parents can download the Microsoft Translator app. You can use the app to take a picture of the activity guidance and it will translate it to the selected language.

Parents' own confidence

- Use the resources provided to encourage parents to use the National Numeracy Challenge.
- Provide 'how to' guides and videos for common methods.
- Encourage parents to attend the 'Help Your Child Love Maths!' workshop.
- Provide different ways for parents to ask for support.