

## Simple, Practical Maths around the Home

Maths is all around us in the home. Here are some ideas for practising maths skills using simple objects around the house, which may be helpful in this time away from school.

### Bake

Help your child to read the scale and measure ingredients accurately. On digital scales, discuss how close to the target you are as you add ingredients. What does the total mixture weigh? How can you divide the mixture evenly between two cake tins? How many biscuits do you predict can be made from the dough? Older children could scale recipes up or down by doubling or halving.



### Weighing

Give your child a variety of objects from the kitchen. Ask them to put them in weight order and predict the weight of each. Then weigh them and see how close they are to their prediction. Convert the weights between g and kg if your child is able to multiply and divide by 1000.

### Measuring lengths

Ask your child to use a tape measure or a piece of string and a ruler to measure their height, arm span, handspan, head circumference, etc. Ask them to measure the height, width and depth of different items. They could estimate before they measure to see if they can become more accurate. Can they measure the length and width of a room and work out the perimeter? Can older pupils work out the area? Younger students could convert millimetres to centimetres. Older children could convert centimetres to metres.



## Volume

Give your child a variety of different containers, such as Tupperware, egg cups, cups, bottles, bowls, syringes, ladles, watering can, mop bucket. Ask your child to estimate how much water each will hold and then give them a measuring jug to find out if they are right. How many syringes will it take to fill the ladle? Estimate, then find out. Repeat with other items. Older children could convert each amount from millilitres to litres by multiplying or dividing by 1000.



## Money



If you have a collection of coins around the house, you could give it to your child to sort and count. Encourage them to count in 2s, 5s, 10s, 20s and 50s where possible. Stack them into different groups, say 10p or 50p. Ask them to make a total, then see if they can make the same total with different coins. How many ways can they find to make that total? How about another one? Fill a purse and let your child ask questions until they can guess the total inside and the coins used.

## Play shops

Let your child set up a toy shop or a food shop by writing price labels on post-it's. Buy some items and ask your child to work out the correct change. Give them some money in their shop. How many of each item can they afford with the money they have? How much more would they need to buy something else?



## Time

Help your child to learn to tell the time, using analogue and digital clocks. Help them learn about how long a second is, or how long a minute is. How many numbers can they count in a minute? How many star jumps can they do in a minute? Look through the calendar together. How many days in each month? How many Mondays in February? How about March? How many days until your birthday?