



Maths at Home Guidance

How to help with Year 3 Maths



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached below information about maths with your child at home.

Your 7-year-old will encounter many concepts that are new to them during their first year of key stage 2 maths lessons. New ideas, coupled with the higher expectations of accuracy in their answers can be a shock to the system for some Year 3 students, so here are a few quick tricks that will help your child get over any mathematical shaped obstacles swiftly and smoothly.

[Maths tip 1: Cultivate accuracy as a habit in Year 3](#)

An easy way to work on cultivating accuracy is by getting your child to measure anything and everything with a ruler or a tape measure. This is a good way for you to ensure that your child is giving accurate answers to questions, without the questions themselves being too difficult.

For example, a quick measuring activity that helps promote accuracy in answers could be as simple as this:

Mum: *"So Sophie, can you tell me how many centimetres long my mobile phone is?"*

Sophie (using a ruler/tape measure): *"I think it's about 7cm long."*

Mum: *"You're right it is roughly 7cm long, but can you tell me exactly how long it is?"*

Sophie: *"It is 7.4cm long."*

Mum: *"It is! Well done."*

Shopping- Budgeting

Try asking your child to estimate how much the items in your basket are going to cost. Do they think the total will be within the budget set?

If you are feeling brave, you could provide a small budget for their own part of the shopping. This will help them get used to moderating their spending habits to live within their means. In order to successfully spend within budget, they will need to carry out mental calculations quickly.

This is particularly powerful as it will solidify knowledge of the four operations and improve memory retention. Any situation where your child has to practise a method in an environment different to the one in which they originally learned it will also help to grow their brain.

Shopping- Checking Your Change

This one is as old as money itself. It is one of the most important life skills – checking the money provided to you matches what you are owed.

Your weekly shop is an excellent place to start. Before actually checking the change at the end of the shop, you could practise with your child throughout the day with questions such as:

'If our shop comes to £47.58 and I pay with a £50 note, how much change should we receive?'

Shopping- Navigating Sales

Asking your child to calculate how much you would save by buying an item in the sale will certainly get their brain working. You might even inspire them to become the next generation of enthusiastic shoppers – queuing outside of stores from the early hours of the morning to take advantage of bargains.

Asking your child to work out the original price is particularly powerful in highlighting how much money you could save.

For example, asking your child to work out the original price of an item that now costs £18 after being reduced by 20% is a good place to start.

You could also explore why it is worth studying the price of items per kg rather than only the price on display. This will help them learn how to save money in the long term.

Car Journeys

Are we there yet? That perennial question. We can also help you here.

Instead of responding to this question as usual, how about returning the question by asking them to calculate how long is left?

Questions regarding distance, speed and time are great, particularly if you can link them to your current journey.

For example, using the following information:

10 miles left on your journey

Average travelling speed of 30mph

You could ask your child how long it is going to take for you to get to your destination.

Answer = $10 \div 30 = 0.33$ hours (20 minutes)

You could extend this question by asking:

If we were travelling at 70mph, how much faster would we get there?

Real Life Maths In Your Local Park

Your local park is a treasure trove of real life maths. From the climbing frame to the trees, so many of the key features of a park lend themselves to practising maths.

Can your child work out all the angles present on the climbing frame? What angles are the most prominent?

There is also a lot you can do with the area and perimeter of a park. Is it possible to estimate the perimeter? Is it possible to estimate the area?

If this is too large an undertaking, you could ask your child to estimate the perimeter and area of a more manageable section such as the play area.

Discuss what measurements would be best to use in this scenario. If you use millimetres, you may be there for a long time!

House DIY

Building that new piece of furniture is an additional activity that will bring real life maths to the forefront of your child's mind.

When building, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate maths. Measuring the space you will need when all sections are laid out is a good exercise to begin with. This will not only help to avoid any cramped spaces, but also encourage your child to visualise a variety of shapes!

Once the furniture is spread out, you could ask your child to double check the number of pieces you have with the number stated in the instructions. There is nothing worse than realising a missing piece at the very end of the process...

There are lots of ways you can make it fun, whether that be by measuring each other's height, recording how much a plant grows each day or even seeing how long the pet dog's tail is. The possibilities are endless here!

Cultivate a habit of accuracy early on, and this will be reflected across your child's learning for the remainder of their school life

[Maths tip 2: Practise times tables every day with your 7-year-old](#)

The more you practise, the better. Sing it, shout it, whisper it, dance it. Whatever it takes!

Although it might not seem like the most entertaining maths in the world, a solid knowledge of your times tables removes barriers to more complex maths further down the line.

Times tables play a huge role in everyday life, with many of us taking them for granted. For example, if you are shopping and see that pineapples are £2.00 each and you know that you require 3 of them, you have no problem working out that this will come to a total of £6.00.

[Maths tip 3: Challenging your Year 3 child with maths at home](#)

Up until this point, your 7-year-old will be used to using one operation (adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying) at a time. Challenge them by mixing it up!

Ask your child to mentally add up the things you buy on a shopping trip. Every now and then, put something back to keep the subtraction practice going. One of the most important things to do at this stage is to try and incorporate maths into everyday life in fun and engaging ways, and this is just one of the ways you can do so!

Please also look on the maths page of the school website for KS2 videos on how to support with the four calculations and games to play at home.