Helping your Child at Home

Maths

- Maths is all around us and we use it all the time.
- Have magnetic numbers on the fridge to aid number recognition.
- Use the language of maths, e.g. bigger, smaller, biggest, first, last, heavier, lighter, longer, and shorter.
- Play cards, board games, number games. (make sure you have lots of dice and counters available, buttons, pennies)
- Counting forward/ backwards, sequencing, begin at different starting points.
- Sort washing, match pairs of socks or shoes.
- Look for number patterns, e.g. house numbers, money – adding up 2p, 5p or 10p coins.
- Add up the digits of a phone number or car registration.
- Use your finger to write a number on your child's back– can they recognise it? One more than? One less than? Double it? Treble it?
- Learn times tables at the shops with multiple packs, e.g. 2 twin packs of orange juice or yoghurts; 3 bars of soap, packs of biscuits; 4 bread rolls, pies; 5 slices of cheese, meat; 6 eggs, jam tarts, cans of pop.
- How many legs on 3 elephants? How many wings on 7 parrots?
- Look for weights on packets, feel weight of 1kg, can child identify things which weigh less/ more?
- Place value (need straws, dice and rubber bands) Throw dice, count straws, every ten make a bundle and ask "How many here?" throughout the game, who has more. Good for avoiding confusion, e.g. 17 (I bundle and & straws) with 70 (7 bundles) and 18 with 80.
- Odds/Evens – decide on an action to do to a given number, e.g. arms up if number said is even, hands on knees if odd number or hold up yes/ no cards. Say the odd numbers between 2 given numbers.
- 20 questions – What number am I? Ask questions to guess a number, e.g. "Is it an odd number?" Can be done with shapes "Does this shape have straight sides?" "Does this shape have more than 3 sides?"
- Money – use real money to make different amounts and practise giving change from 10p, 50p or £1.
- Learn number bonds to 10, e.g. 3+7=10, 2+8=10. When these are secure practise number bonds to 20, e.g. 11+9=20 etc.

Ask your child's teacher if you are unsure of the calculation methods your child is using. Teaching them methods you understand and used at school may confuse them.