

Maths Games

Maths games give children the opportunity to have fun while they are learning. They have opportunities to practise taking it in turns and following rules. They can enjoy practising a mastered skill as well as embracing new learning. When you play with them, try and make all your conversation with them through asking questions rather than telling them anything.
'I've got a 6' becomes 'what did I get?'
'Move me onto 16' becomes 'where will I land?'
However, don't let the questions interfere with the flow of the game. Enjoying the game is a big priority.

Snakes and Ladders

Sometimes playing a game up to 100 is too much for reception aged children. I have included a homemade game up to 28 which may be more manageable. It's fun to make your own!

Skills to practise:

- Recognising and reading numerals. Some children find the teen numbers tricky and can get muddled between 13 and 30. Try and say the words clearly when it is your turn and model any mispronunciations purposefully.
- Reinforce the number sequence. The snakes and ladders board is different from a number square that reads left to right continually.
- 'counting on'. Ask your child where they think they will land and then they can check by moving the counter. Or you could ask them how many they want to throw in order to land on the ladder.
- You could use 2 dice for each turn or put sticky spots on your dice to keep the numbers small e.g. replace 4,5 and 6 with 1,2, and 3.

Matching pairs

There are lots of matching pairs games on the market but you could make your own to target your child's interests or needs.

You can make a set of matching pairs together, for example:

- matching objects to numerals
- matching numerals to iconic dot patterns

Memory games are beneficial in all areas of your child's learning.

These games give opportunities to practise skills over and over again.

The child often becomes fluent while having fun.

Dominoes

This game enables children to recognise the iconic dot patterns fluently.

It also gives opportunities to ask 'how many do you have left?'

Being able to accurately count up to 10 (then 20) objects is a marvellous skill. It can be practised during your everyday life in many contexts.