

# Applied Mathematics for young children

What is Applied mathematics?

*Measuring, weighing, telling time, money, calendar, temperature, mathematical vocabulary*

There are many home activities that can incorporate applied mathematics.

## Calendar and weather

Make a sign board with removable cards to show the day of the week, the month, the weather

Examples:



## Measuring distance

For young children, no need to use a ruler. Use measurement activities to consolidate counting skills. Measure distance with hands, feet, shoes, books, e.g. the desk is the length of 10 books; the window is as wide as 7 shoes.

## Measuring capacity and volume

Cooking activities are an excellent way to teach measuring skills.

e.g. 2 cups of flour, 4 tablespoons of butter

Free play with water is another excellent activity. Fill a plastic bath or bucket with water. Provide cups, jugs and containers of different sizes. Ask, “How many cups of water will I need to fill this container?” Get the child to estimate (guess) first, then try is out.

## Telling Time

What time do I get up, have meals, go to bed?

What time does it get dark?

From the age of 5 or 6, introduce the clockface and teach “o’clock” – the big hand on 12 and the little hand on the other numbers. Later introduce half past and then quarter to/past.

## Money

Set up a shop with recycled packages and tin cans. Make price tags and provide play money.

Change the items in the shop on another day for interest, e.g. set up a clothes shop.

Play money does not have to be fancy – just paper circles for the coins – 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c (octagonal), and paper notes of appropriate colours – e.g. purple for \$5



## Mathematical vocabulary

High/low; short/tall; big/little; long/short; thick/thin; over/under; left/right; top/bottom

Playdough is a good medium for teaching many mathematical concepts, e.g. make a long thin snake; make a short, thick sausage; make the tallest tower you can