Everyday fun with maths

Everyday tasks and activities can be a great chance to have fun and find out more about maths together

Leicestershire County Council

Sorting the Recycling

When you are sorting out the recycling at home, why not turn this into a fun way of discovering more about maths?

Together you could look for and sort the different recycling items into piles - the boxes, bottles or tins, for example - sorting similar type items is an important early maths skill. Encourage your child to find different sized bottles, for example, and use mathematical language such as tall and short. Looking for and naming big and small boxes could be a fun activity to do together. Praise your child for having a go. You can have more fun by repeating your child's comments and adding more words to extend their vocabulary.

Supporting your child to develop their language

Use your child's name during your conversations - it really helps when you say it at the beginning of a phrase e.g. 'Tomasz...I can see the ...' - this can help your child to concentrate and keeps them involved in the activity.

Words to share

Big, small, tall, short, flat, curved, straight

Making it work for your family

Focus on one idea first and keep it simple, for example, talking just about finding the bottles.

Add in more ideas, for example, finding boxes, talking about size and shapes you can see.

Next time you could try ...

having fun together with sorting other items in the home, for example, toys, clothing, packaging, etc. Look for different sizes and shapes, sort objects together and have fun.

You may find a box that could fit inside another box ...and talk about the different sizes.

Why not try matching lids to bottles or tubs as you sort them? Which ones fit? You could talk about different shapes and sizes.

Look all around you, **talk together** about the things you see, **recap together** on what you have enjoyed - children enjoy doing the same activity again and again and again - this really helps them to learn and remember.