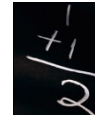


## Preschool Maths Tips for Families.



### Pre-School Maths Tips:

1. **Practice counting.** Count different objects in the environment e.g. leaves, play bricks, potatoes, action figures, fingers, toes etc. Also practice counting to twenty without using any concrete materials.
2. **Practice addition and subtraction.** Talk to the child as you give him things. If he is playing with dinkies, add two more in or take two away. Try and make it fun and relaxed. "If you have 4 cars and I drive 2 more up, how many do we have then?"
3. **Talk about shapes.** Draw shapes for the child. Allow the child to colour shapes. Identify shapes in the environment. Buy age appropriate games and puzzles with shapes.
4. **Talk about matching, comparing, sorting and classifying.** Talk about animals, and birds in the environment. Talk about differences and similarities. Look at books with pictures of animals, fish and birds. Sort and classify animals, birds and fish. Play matching pairs with picture cards.
5. **Talk about characteristics of objects. What is long, short, heavy or light?** Fill up different sizes of container and jugs. Which container can hold the most toys, water? etc.
6. **Introduce money and its value.** Talk about the different coins and notes.
7. **Mention and discuss time.** Notice and discuss the passing of time.

**Take time to explore age appropriate card games and board games that are available.**

### **Good places:**

Formative Fun, Maylor Street, Cork.

Tescos Toy Department, Smyth's Toystore.

**Search the Internet for Preschool Maths Tips. (Lots of good ideas).**





## Preschool Literacy Tips for Families.



1. **Spend time in Conversation** with your child to develop vocabulary and knowledge of the world. Oral language is crucial to a child's future as a reader, writer and communicator.
2. **Play with language.** Listen to, read and say nursery rhymes. See how many rhyming words you can think of together: hop, top, bop, mop, stop etc. Use words with the same letter e.g. 'Bob bounced the ball'.
3. **Teach your child about letters and words.** Notice words and letters in the world around you. Read cereal boxes. Post your child's name in his room etc.
4. **Read aloud with your child every day.** Talk about the stories you read to make them more meaningful to the child. Point to words as you read.
5. **Encourage your child to write, draw and colour.** Have a variety of colours and sheets available. Have activity books and colouring books if possible. Give the child play dough or 'Marla' to help them build their hand strength and fine motor skills.
6. **Join the library and/or buy books.** If the child sees books around his environment he will grow in appreciation for reading.
7. **Read yourself:** Find a topic you like and read about it!

**Remember that you are the first and most important educator in your child's life.**

