

# Year 1 - Ideas for maths activities at home

- Snakes and ladders/any board game with numbers.
- Playing cards:-
  - Turn over 2 cards and add together.
  - Turn over 3 cards and add together – look for doubles, number bonds etc.
  - Shut the box – buy commercially or make your own using playing cards. You need number cards or playing cards 1-9. Place them in a row. Player 1 throws 2 dice and adds together their score. They then need to turn over 2 cards that add up to their total. Player 1 keeps going until they can not turn over any more cards. Any remaining cards are added together and this is their score. It is then player 2's turn. The player with the lowest score is the winner. This is a great game for addition facts and strategy and can be played as many times as you like!
  - Play picking pairs – keep cards that add up to 10 or doubles or any other rule you want to make up.
  - Take out 10's and aces and shuffle (add pile). Shuffle remaining cards (number pile). One player turns over a card from the number pile and the other from the add pile and calls out add 10 or add 1. Number person has to say the answer quickly – repeat as many times as they want.
  - Make a rectangle – pack of playing cards up to 5 or more depending on the child's ability. Shuffle the cards and take the top 6 cards and lay them into a rectangle – add up the values of the cards and record the total. Put to one side and lay out the next 6 cards and add. Is it worth more or less than the first rectangle? Could be played as a game to see who has the most points by end of the game.
- Add up car number plates.
- Look for numbers in the environment – what is the biggest number you can find
- Look for odd and even numbers eg house numbers
- Count different items in the home or outside – is it an odd or even number
- Practice counting in 2's 5's and 10's.
- Count with other members of the family up to .... start from different numbers. Count backwards.
- Use money to make different amounts, make amounts with the smallest number of coins, play shopping games – adding amounts and giving change.
- Make repeating patterns with items like lego, pasta, toys, natural materials

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- Go on a shape hunt
- Estimate how many footsteps to cross a room and then measure, estimate how many footsteps of other family members, measure using non standard units,
- Make an 'Olly Octopus' – choose a number and find 8 different ways of making the number on tentacles. Use addition, subtraction, 2, 3, 4, numbers or more if you want to.
- Fill it – take a pot and estimate how many objects it would take to fill it – eg buttons, pasta, coins (of the same size) and then fill it and count. Repeat using different containers or objects.
- Complete dot to dots
- Shake, guess, count – take a container with a lid – count in a set of objects without a partner seeing. Partner has to guess how many objects are in there and then count. Swap places and repeat.
- What's my number? Make a playing board of numbers from 11-20 for example and a set of small cards with too high and too low written on them. One player chooses a number secretly, the other player tries to guess the number. The first player puts too high or too low on the number. Play continues until the number is found and then players swap places.
- Take 20 – make a set of cards with numbers that add up to 20 written on them (one on each side). Spread the cards on the table. First player chooses a card and the other player has to say the number written on the reverse. If correct, the player keeps the card. If incorrect replaces it. Player with the most cards is the winner.
- Use dominoes – use 4 dominoes to make a square where each side adds up to the same number.
- Twenty Twenty – make a game board of 4 columns and 6 rows. Write in a row of 1's, 2's etc up to 6. Take it in turns to place counters on numbers (one counter per number). Players keep a running total of the numbers covered. Winner is the first to manage to bring the total to exactly 20. If a player takes a total over 20, they are the loser.