



# Lawn Primary and Nursery School

## Parent Advice Sheet

### Suggestions to Help a Child Who Finds Maths Difficult

#### 1. Create a Positive Environment

- **Encourage a Growth Mindset:** Emphasise that mistakes are part of learning. Praise effort, perseverance, and improvement, not just correct answers.
- **Stay Patient:** Children who struggle with maths may need more time to understand concepts. Offer encouragement and avoid rushing.
- **Use Praise and Rewards:** Celebrate small victories and progress. Use positive reinforcement to boost confidence.

#### 2. Make Math Fun and Engaging

- **Use Games:** Maths-based games and puzzles, like Sudoku, math bingo, or board games like can make learning enjoyable.
- **Incorporate Technology:** Use math apps or educational websites that make math interactive and fun
- **Real-Life Math:** Show how math is used in everyday life (e.g., measuring ingredients, counting money, calculating time) to make the subject feel more relevant and practical.

#### 3. Break Down Problems into Small Steps

- **Simplify the Problem:** Instead of giving the child a large, complex problem, break it into smaller, manageable parts. Address each part step by step.
- **Underline :** Underline important information in word problems.
- **Vocabulary :** Focus on maths vocabulary and ensure children understand it.
- **Teach Problem-Solving Strategies:** Encourage strategies like drawing pictures, using number lines, or making lists. These methods help visual learners and simplify complex tasks.
- **Use Visual Aids:** Diagrams, pictures, or charts can make abstract concepts more concrete. Visualising maths problems can help children see relationships and patterns more clearly.

#### 4. Provide Concrete Tools and Manipulatives

- **Use Physical Objects:** Items like blocks, counters, or coins can help children understand concepts like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- **Use a Number Line:** A number line helps children understand numerical order and can be a great tool for addition, subtraction, and even multiplication.
- **Math Manipulatives:** Tools like base-10 blocks, fraction tiles, or tangrams can provide hands-on experiences to better grasp concepts.

#### 5. Adapt Learning Styles

- **Hands-On Learning:** Some children benefit from tactile experiences. Allow them to handle objects or physically move pieces to represent mathematical problems.

- **Use Music and Rhymes:** Rhythmic songs or rhymes can help children remember math facts, such as multiplication tables or addition rules.
- **Incorporate Storytelling:** Use stories that involve math problems or scenarios. This helps children connect with the material on an emotional level.

### *6. Focus on Understanding, Not Just Memorization*

- **Explain 'Why':** Help children understand the reasons behind math rules, not just how to follow them. Understanding "why" helps make math more meaningful.
- **Use Analogies:** Use simple, relatable analogies to explain abstract concepts. For example, explain fractions like sharing pizza or dividing a cake.
- **Relate Math to Interests:** If the child loves a particular hobby (sports, art, etc.), use examples from those areas to explain math concepts.

### *7. Practice Regularly*

- **Daily Practice:** Short, consistent practice sessions are more effective than long, irregular ones. Aim for 10-20 minutes a day.
- **Repetition is Key:** Practice multiplication tables, addition facts, or problem-solving skills until they become automatic.
- **Start with What They Know:** Begin with easier problems and gradually increase difficulty. Success with simple problems builds confidence for tackling harder ones.
- **Environmental numbers :** Look for numbers in day to day life eg on road signs, prices, numbers of packets and containers. Ask questions about these numbers. Eg What is 10 more, what is half, is it odd or even, is it in the 3 times table and get them to explain how they know.

### *8. Provide Support and Extra Help*

- **Work with your child:** If possible, spend a few minutes each day talking about number, shape and maths.
- **Use Peer Support:** Sometimes children understand concepts better when they explain them to their peers. Working with an older sibling for a short session can be helpful.
- **Ask for Teacher Feedback:** Stay in touch with the child's teacher for progress updates and strategies for supporting learning at home.

### *9. Encourage Positive Math Attitudes*

- **Model a Positive Attitude:** Show the child that you value math by tackling challenges yourself. Share your problem-solving strategies and successes. "Think out loud". Also remember to model making mistakes and looking at a number to know it can't possibly be the correct answer!
- **Be Supportive During Frustration:** When the child gets frustrated, acknowledge their feelings and encourage them to take a short break before continuing.

## Additional Tips

- **Be mindful of the child's emotional needs:** Maths can be frustrating for children who find it difficult. Provide emotional support and help them build resilience.

- **Stay consistent:** Maths is a cumulative subject. Consistent practice and reinforcement will help the child make gradual progress over time.

By using these suggestions, children can improve their understanding of maths and develop a more positive attitude towards learning it.