

Back-to-school maths: easy ways to get ahead



As the new school year begins, it's a great time to help your child get back on track with their learning, especially in maths. Here are four simple ways to give your child an extra boost in maths this year:

- 1. Number Talks:** Number talks are casual conversations about different ways to solve mental maths problems. These quick chats can take place anywhere – at the dinner table, on a walk, or in the car. Yesterday, my son mentioned that there are 180 pupils in each year at his school, which led to a fun conversation about how to quickly calculate 180×5 .
- 2. Mathematical Games:** Board games are a fun way to strengthen mathematical skills. They also provide a great break from screens and bring the family together. Rummikub is a favourite in our house!
- 3. Outdoor Activities:** Everyday activities offer plenty of opportunities to think mathematically. When out on your weekly shop, you can challenge your child to estimate the total cost of the items in your basket or to find the best value product by calculating cost per gram. Giving them a small budget and asking them to stretch it as far as possible is another great way to practice real-world maths skills.
- 4. Consider a Tutor:** If you feel your child needs extra help, bringing a tutor on board can ensure they get that little bit of regular practice which goes a long way toward building your child's maths confidence and skills.

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