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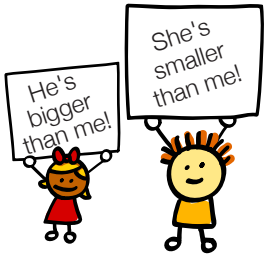
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

3: Talking about measurement

The language you use helps your child to learn maths. Some of the words you use every day also have a specific meaning in maths. Children need to learn to use words accurately as they talk about maths. For example, they often say, *he's bigger than me*. Do they mean he's taller or older? Knowing the language of maths can help children to be more precise about what they are thinking and about what they mean.



As a parent you can help your child by using the correct maths language yourself. Look at the video **Comparing weights** and see how that parent helps her child.

Some more examples

Let's take a look at some examples of the language you might use when measuring with your child.

When children are measuring the length of something encourage them to say: *This one is long; this one is shorter; this is the shortest; these two are the same length*.

When talking about weight use words like heavy, heavier and heaviest or light, lighter and lightest rather than talking about the **size** of the object (big or small). Watch the video **Comparing weights**.

If you are pouring water or milk, talk about full and empty; the glass holding less than the cup; the jug holding more than the eggcup; the glasses that hold the same amount.

See **www.ncca.ie/parents** for more information including video clips.

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Helping your child with maths in JUNIOR INFANTS

Enjoy maths with your child

Watch your child using and enjoying maths while playing, for example when setting the table for Teddy's party, using shapes to build things, or talking about the highest step, the heaviest box and the longest skipping rope.

Maths is everywhere around us and is part of your child's daily life. You can help your child to understand and enjoy maths through simple games and everyday activities such as saying rhymes like *Two Little Dickie Birds* or *One Two, Buckle My Shoe*, naming colours and shapes you see around you and counting objects, for example, *how many steps did we climb?*

About this tip sheet

There are three sections in this tip sheet.

1: What your child is learning in school tells you about the maths your child will learn in junior infants.

2: How your child learns at home gives you tips to help your child with maths. There are short video clips with further suggestions. You can watch these by visiting the parents' section of the NCCA website at **www.ncca.ie/parents**.

3: Talking about measurement gives you examples of the language you can use when helping your child with maths.

When your child is ready for more challenging activities, take a look at the tip sheet and videos for senior infants.

1: What your child is learning in school

Here is some of the maths your child will learn in junior infants in primary school.

- **Match** objects that go together, for example shoes and socks; a pencil for each child.
- **Sort** groups of objects, for example *put all the blue blocks together; put all the apples in the bowl.*
- **Say the numbers 1 to 10** in the correct order counting forwards and backwards.
- **Recognise** the written numbers 1 to 5.
- **Write** the numbers 1 to 5.
- **Tell at a glance** the number of objects in a group up to 5.
- **Make and count a group of objects** up to 5.
- **Add two groups** of objects to a total of 5.
- **Count how many are left** in a group when some are taken away.

Your child will also learn to:

- **recognise** and make simple **patterns** using shapes, beads, and lots of other objects, for example

- **sort and name shapes** such as square, circle, triangle, rectangle.

- **compare objects** using words such as heavy and light, long and short, longest and shortest, full and empty, nearly full and nearly empty.
- **talk about time** using words such as before and after, early and late, and night and day.
- **recognise and use coins** up to 5 cents. Recognise which coin is which and start to understand the value of coins, for example, that you can swap five 1 cent coins for one 5 cent coin.

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

2: How your child learns at home

Match and sort objects
Match socks or gloves. Sort toys into groups by colour, by shape… Ask your child: *How would you sort them?*

Recognise the written numbers 1 to 5
Pick a number for the day and look out for it when you go out.

Add two groups of objects to make a total of 5
Ask your child to get you 2 apples, then 3 more. *How many altogether? How many ways could I share 4 cakes between you and your brother? How could I share them fairly between you both?*

Recognise and make simple patterns
Play clapping games. Draw attention to patterns on clothes such as stripes or spots. Look for patterns around you such as on tiles or curtains.

Talk about time
Ask questions such as: *What do you do before you go to bed? After swimming? What do you think will happen next in the story? What day is it today?*

Say the numbers 1-10
Play a rocket game by counting 1 to 10 and then counting back again from 10 to 1 and saying 'blast off'. Try starting from a different number such as 9 and count back to 1.

Careful counting
Encourage your child to count objects carefully by taking time to touch each item when counting and saying the number name at the same time.

Tell at a glance the number of objects in a set or group up to 5. Play dice games. Match similar amounts of dots as in the game of Dominoes.

Compare objects by weight
Ask your child to help you sort the shopping. *Can you find the heaviest item, the lightest item, two items that weigh about the same amount?*

Recognise and use coins up to 5 cents
Play shop. Price items up to 5 cents. Give your child a purse with some coins and talk about what you could buy. *Which coin is worth the most? The least? What can you buy with 5 cents?*