

# MATHEMATICS

## Let's make it fun and meaningful!

### Practical Activities

These activities suggested by **Abacus Homework 1 - 6** are intended to last about 15 minutes, and should not be painful for you or your child! If your child is struggling with an activity or has had enough, leave it and raise the issue with their teacher, or return to it another day. Children's attitude to maths are crucial and it is very important that children can 'have a go' at any maths activity, even if they can't finish without help.

#### Activity 1: A spoonful

##### What is needed?

A person to talk to  
A large spoon  
Small objects such as dried pasta shapes or beans



##### What to do?

- Fill a large spoon with dried pasta shapes.
- Have two guesses each at how many it holds, and write down your guesses.
- Count the shapes by grouping them in 2s.
- Write down the actual number.
- Whose guess was closest?

#### Activity 2: Guess the Total

##### What is needed?

A person to play with  
A dice

##### What to do?

- Throw the dice twice.
- What different totals can you get?
- Take turns to throw the dice twice.
- Add the 2 numbers.
- If you throw your chosen total, you get a point.
- Play until someone has 3 (or 5) points.

#### Activity 3: Car numbers

##### What is needed?

A person to play with

##### What to do?

- In a safe place, look for 3 cars each and write down their numbers.
- Then write all 6 numbers together in a list from smallest to largest.
- Can you find a car with a number whose digits add up to 10?
- Draw the car.

#### Activity 4: Draw the shape

##### What is needed?

A person to play with

##### What to do?

- Draw a shape without showing the other person.
- Give instructions so that your partner draws the same shape without seeing your drawing.
- Compare the drawings. Swap and repeat.

#### Activity 5: Bathroom hunt!

##### What is needed?

A person to talk to  
Paper  
Pencils



##### What to do?

- Look in the bathroom. Can you find a container that is marked in **ml**?
- Draw the container, label it and write the number of **ml**.
- How many containers would you need to total more than a litre?

**Activity 6: The long and short of it**

**What is needed?**

A person to talk to  
A newspaper with TV times in it

**What to do?**

- Look in the newspaper at the place that tells you about TV and radio.
- Choose your favourite TV or radio programme. Write down the start time. Write the time it ends.
- Together, write how long it lasts, and write this down.
- Now do the same with your partner's favourite programme.

**Activity 7: One hundred times taller**

**What is needed?**

A person to talk to  
Paper

**What to do?**

- Write down the names of some members of your family or friends.
- Write the height in centimetres (or make an estimate).
- Multiply each height by 100.
- How many centimetres tall are they now?
- Write their height in metres as well.



**Activity 8: Multiplication Square**

**What is needed?**

Squared paper  
A ruler  
A pencil  
A coloured pencil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

**What to do?**

- Draw out a 10 x 10 multiplication square and write in numbers.
- Guess how many multiples of 3 there are on the grid.
- Colour all the multiples of 3.
- How close were you?

**Activity 9: How many days?**

**What is needed?**

A calculator  
A paper  
A pencil



**What to do?**

- Work out how many days is it until your next birthday.
- Write the number of days.
- How many hours to your next birthday?

**Activity 10: Which weights?**

**What is needed?**

Weighing scales  
Items to weigh  
Paper  
Pencil

**What to do?**

- Find five items to weigh on the weighing scales in **kg**.
- Before you weigh, give an **estimate**.
- Convert weight to **g**.

## Online Resources

### MENTAL MATHEMATICS

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/quizes/brain1.htm>

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/maths/contents.htm>

<http://www.sgfl.org.uk/mathematics/primary/LearningandTeaching/Activities/mentalmathsallstrands>

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/numeracy.htm>

<http://www.primaryonline.co.uk/sitetour/marthshort.html>

<http://www.netagency.co.uk/keyedin2/mental.html>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths/number/mental\\_maths/play.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths/number/mental_maths/play.shtml)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/wholenumbers/addsubtract/mental/game.shtml>

<http://www.funnygames.co.uk/mental-arithmetic.htm>

<http://teachingtreasures.com.au/teaching-tools/mental-mathematics/Main-Mental-Math.htm>

<http://www.aplusmath.com/Games/HiddenPicture/HiddenPicture.php>

<http://primarygamesarena.com/Mental-Maths-puzzle-31399>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/EducationalGames.aspx?cat=16>

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/Add%20Like%20Mad%20Math/AddLikeMad\\_easy.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/Add%20Like%20Mad%20Math/AddLikeMad_easy.htm)

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm>

**D**ownload a list of websites outlined as resourceful by Mathematics Teachers from <http://primarymaths.skola.edu.mt/>

**D**ownload Past Examination Papers, syllabi and other useful resources from [http://curriculum.gov.mt/exam\\_papers.htm](http://curriculum.gov.mt/exam_papers.htm)

