

## Maths in early years

**Mathematics (maths) is an important part of learning for all children in the early years and receiving a good foundation in maths is essential for life skills.**

As well as developing numeracy (understanding and using numbers), it helps with skills such as problem-solving, understanding and using shapes and measures and developing spatial awareness. It helps them to recognise, create and describe patterns, which is valuable for problem-solving skills.



Introducing maths to children from an early age helps to develop their understanding of all elements of problem-solving and reasoning in a broad range of contexts. Practitioners should provide opportunities for children to practice their developing skills and knowledge so they improve their competence and confidence in using them.

### All children can be successful with maths...

... provided they are given the opportunities to understand it in a way that makes sense to them. Ensuring children are engaged, motivated and thinking critically for themselves is vital for mathematical learning. For example, encouraging children to problem solve by asking questions such as: *“How many spoons do we need for everyone in this group to have one each?”*, *“How many have we got?”*, *“How many more do we need?”*

### Our relationships with children help them to develop their mathematical skills



From birth, children have a keen interest in the world around them, but to have the confidence to explore it they need support from adults around them.

To help children develop their maths skills, practitioners also need to have confidence in their own abilities and to plan for maths opportunities throughout the setting. An understanding of the brain and cognitive development of a young child, and how it relates to mathematical development, also helps practitioners to support maths skills in very young children.

### Find out more

Contact our training team for Maths training or our Maths Champions programme for your setting on 01484 407070 or email [training@ndna.org.uk](mailto:training@ndna.org.uk)