

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Outdoor maths

These tips will help you make the most of your outdoor environment to support and enhance children's mathematical development in engaging and meaningful ways.

1. Training and development:

- a. Offer regular training sessions to enhance staff experience of supporting maths outdoors
- b. Provide access to books, articles, and other resources to support continuous learning for providing engaging maths in the outdoor environment
- c. Train staff to observe children's interactions with nature and identify spontaneous maths opportunities
- d. Teach staff to look for everyday opportunities to discuss mathematical concepts, such as finding patterns in nature.



2. Peer observation and reflective practice:

- a. Pair less experienced staff with more experienced, confident members who can model effective ways to add mathematical thinking to children's play
- b. Encourage your team to share ideas and discuss their successful maths experiences and strategies.

3. Plan activities

- a. Ensure your team plan a variety of outdoor activities and opportunities to explore mathematical concepts
- b. Regularly promote the importance of mathematics within your team, ensuring it remains a focus. This will enable all staff to enrich child-led activities with mathematical language and concepts
- c. Encourage a variety of play opportunities for maths such as role play areas like a market stall, messy play with scales, small world with measuring tape etc. Provide opportunities for children to practice skills like counting, weighing, and measuring
- d. Plan math-related games and activities, such as "Simon Says" with instructions like "Simon says jump three times"
- e. Incorporate outdoor story times with maths-related books that involve counting, measuring, or identifying shapes, and encourage active participation from children
- f. Support flexible planning that can be adapted based on children's responses and interests.

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4. Reflect and adapt:

- a. Provide regular feedback and suggestions on how staff can incorporate more maths activities in outdoor plan
- b. Celebrate children's mathematical achievements outdoors by displaying photo's or sharing successes during group time.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Top tips: [Outdoor Maths Opportunities](#)
- Online course: [Maths in Early Years](#)
- [Maths Champions Programme](#)
- Online course: [Mini Maths Explorers - Outdoors Challenge.](#)

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna