



# Finding the Maths



## Tips for helping your child learn Mathematics

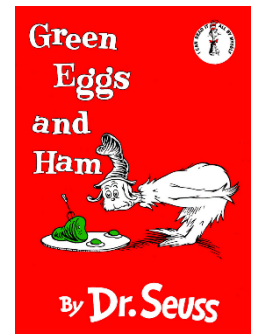
Mathematics is everywhere. We use it everyday – even though we may not realise it. By shifting our perspective, we can begin to see the many different way we can help children develop worthwhile skills. Here are some tips to help you find the maths.

### Estimation

Estimation is one of the key areas in maths and, yet it is often one that we take for granted. We use estimation to complete a range of daily tasks, including preparing food, cooking, getting ready in the morning, driving, giving directions, telling the time, predicting size and making comparisons. Talk to your child about estimating. Make predictions with them and compare results. Repeat the process the next day, learning from what you discovered.

### Books

- Count the characters or the places visited
- Use location words to describe the position of objects
- Create a map to show where the characters travelled
- Describe the sequence of events using ordinal numbers (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.)
- Use the ideas in books for inspiration for your own investigation



### Around the House

- Estimate then count the number of cups needed to fill a large pot
- Investigate the different shapes of objects and food items in the house
- Use a timer to make the perfect cup of tea
- Give directions to help your child set the table
- Order containers from smallest to tallest or lightest to heaviest



### Outside

- Go for a number walk in your local area - look for numbers on street signs, house numbers and shop fronts
- If you see a number think about: What number comes before or after? What is ten more or less than the number? What else do you know about the number?
- Go to a local park – use location words to describe the position of the different objects
- Create your own obstacle course and follow the directions given to you by someone else
- Hide an object and give someone directions to find it



## At the Shop

- Estimating how many of a particular item you will need
- Compare the cost of different items – What is the best value purchase?
- Calculate the possible savings when there is a percentage off sale
- Use the scales in the grocery department to compare the mass of different fruits and vegetables
- Calculating whether or not you have spent over your budget
- Talk to your child about the different coins and notes we have in Australia
- Encourage your child to collect coins in a Money Box and save up for something they may want to purchase
- Put the coins in order (amount NOT size) and use the coins and notes to make different amounts



## Time

- Have clocks in your home and encourage your child to check the time before asking you
- Refer to time when discussing activities, for example, Soccer training is at four-thirty; It's 8 o'clock time to go to bed
- Make use of calendars and diaries and refer to the days of the week



## Toys & Games

- Estimate then count the number of toys in the box
- Work out how many different outfit combinations the dolls can wear
- Use blocks to create different representations of numbers
- Investigate how many blocks will be needed to cover a given area
- Make a racetrack and predict which car will come first, second, etc.
- Sort toys into different categories then explain thinking
- Use location words to describe the position of toys
- Play games such as Snakes and Ladders with two or three dice
- Use playing cards or dominoes to look for or create number patterns
- Compare statistics on collectable cards

