TOYS & GAMES

Toys are a great resource to investigate different areas of mathematics. You do not need to purchase toys that have a specific maths focus, instead you may just simply need to look at some of the toys you already have from a different perspective.

Toys

- Estimate then count the number of toys in the box
- Work out how many different outfit combinations the toys can wear
- Use blocks to create different representations of numbers
- How many ways can I show 10 using blocks?
- 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 your thinking
- Can you find a toy that does not belong to a category? (a non-example) What makes it different?
- Use location words to describe the position of toys

Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Games

- Play board games such as Snakes and Ladders with more than one dice, dice of different sizes or allow players to decide whether to move forwards or backwards each time they roll, i.e. in order to avoid a snake or reach a ladder
- After the player rolls the dice, ask them to predict where their counter will end up before moving it
- What number comes before or after their number? What will they need to roll to complete the game?
- Use playing cards or dominoes to look for or create number patterns
- Build towers or paths with cards or dominoes
- How many cards/dominoes did you use? How high was the tower? How long was the path?
- Compare statistics on collectable cards

For more ideas about ways to play games with your child, visit the *Love Maths* website by Michael Minas that includes videos of popular maths games: https://www.lovemaths.me/games

For more information to support your child, download the **AMSI Schools** *Finding the Maths Parent Booklet*: https://calculate.org.au/2017/11/21/finding-the-maths/