

Maths Fluency at Home

Every day, in school, your child takes part in a 15–30-minute fluency session that builds on their understanding of mathematical concepts. To

What is Maths Fluency?

Maths fluency is the ability to quickly, accurately, and confidently recall mathematical facts, choose efficient methods for problems, and adapt strategies across different contexts. It combines conceptual understanding with procedural skill, moving beyond rote memorization to foster "number sense". Key components include efficient calculation (speed), accurate results, and flexibility in selecting strategies.

Key Aspects of Maths Fluency

- **Automaticity/Recall:** Fast, effortless recall of basic facts like times tables and number bonds.
- **Procedural Efficiency:** Knowing the most efficient method to solve a problem (e.g. using mental math or recognising a faster method).
- **Flexibility:** The ability to choose appropriate, varied strategies and adapt to new situations.
- **Conceptual Understanding:** Understanding *why* a method works, not just *how*.

How can you support at home?

Supporting children's maths fluency at home involves integrating math into daily routines, using concrete objects for hands-on practice, and playing games that reinforce mental arithmetic. Key methods include counting items during chores, cooking, shopping, identifying patterns, practicing times tables, and asking open-ended questions.

Here are some practical ways to support your child with math fluency at home:

Integrate Math into Daily Routines:

- **Cooking/Baking:** Involve children in measuring ingredients, doubling recipes, and setting timers.
- **Shopping:** Ask children to weigh produce, estimate total costs, calculate change, and compare prices.
- **Tidying Up:** Sort items by shape, color, or size, or count toys while putting them away.
- **Time Management:** Use a clock to practice telling time (o'clock, half past) and calculate durations, such as how long until dinner or bedtime.

Use Concrete Resources (Manipulatives):

- **Household Objects:** Count, add, or subtract using Lego bricks, buttons, coins, or cutlery.
- **Visual Aids:** Use dominoes or dice for quick mental addition and multiplication games.

Engaging Games and Activities:

- **Card and Board Games:** Play games like Snakes and Ladders, Uno, or Snap to build number recognition and counting skills.
- **Number Talks:** Discuss numbers, patterns, and shapes in the environment (e.g. house numbers, license plates).
- **Story Time:** Read books that incorporate numbers and mathematical concepts.
- **Active Play:** Use hopscotch for counting or count jumps/skips.

Building Number Fluency:

- **Times Tables:** Practice multiplication facts through quick-fire questions, song, or log into Times Tables Rock Stars using your child's login details.
- **Mental Math:** Challenge children to calculate totals or differences in their heads.
- **"What If" Scenarios:** Ask questions like, "If we have 10 crackers and share them with 2 friends, how many do we get?".

Encourage Mathematical Thinking:

- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Ask, "How do you know?", "Can you explain your method?", or "Is there another way?".
- **Write Story Problems:** Ask children to create a story problem for a given equation (e.g., $10 - 3 = 7$...there were 10 birds sitting in the tree, 3 fly away, how many are left?).

The main thing to do is, keep sessions short and fun focusing on consistent, low-stress practice to build confidence.