



**Special Needs Tip:** Things to try at home based on strategies we use in school to help support your child's learning. We hope that these ideas might be helpful, but there is no obligation or expectation for you to use them.

**Using everyday objects to support maths**

Which of these ideas will be suitable for your child will depend on their age and stage at school.

At school, we talk about using concrete resources or apparatus to support maths. What we really mean is objects. In school, many of the things we use are specially designed, but you can use anything that can be counted, for example toys, cutlery, books, game pieces, etc. Even sweets and then the children can eat the answers!

1. Key to developing maths is counting. Encourage your children to count as much as



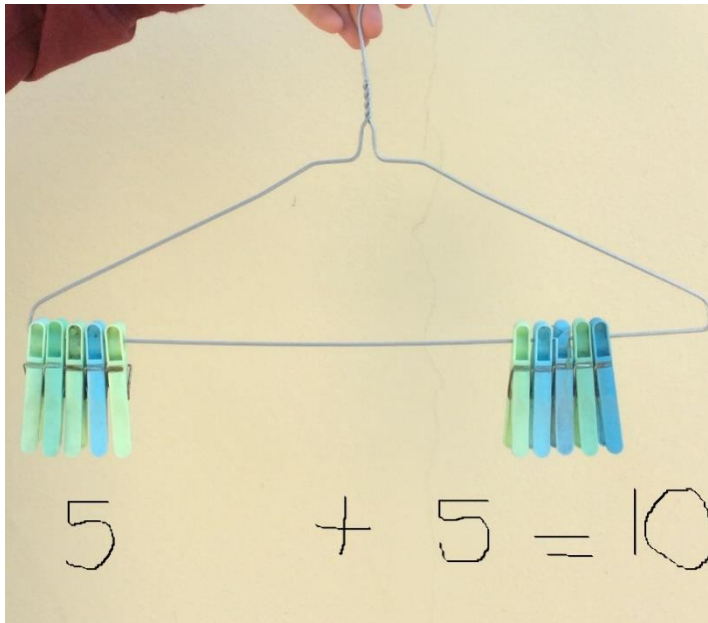
possible and to match the written numbers to the objects. Ask them to give you a set number of the object. Encourage them to point to or touch the object as they count.

2. Use objects to support and practice calculations. For example



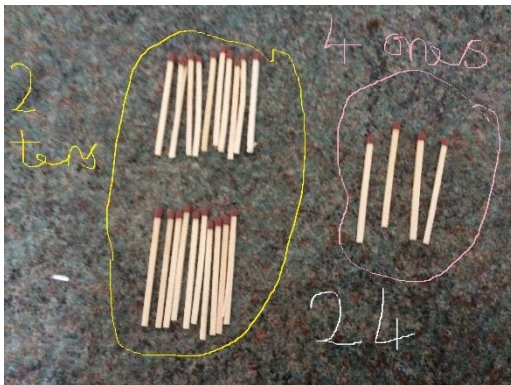
This kind of calculation can be done with anything.

3. You can use a coat hanger and clothes pegs to make an 'abacus' for practicing number bonds to 10 or 20 (depending on the number of clothes pegs).



Ask your child to find all the different calculations that make ten. They can be turned round to make subtraction sums as well e.g.  $10-5=5$

4. You can use smaller objects e.g. matches, grains of rice, pieces of pasta, lentils or pieces of Lego to organise the items into groups of tens and ones.



You can give your child a large quantity of the objects e.g. a handful of rice or a pile of Lego and ask them to estimate how many pieces there are. Once they have estimated, work with them to arrange the pieces in groups of tens to make counting them easier.

5. Arrange things on pieces of paper, plates or even carrier bags to make times tables. Don't forget the objects can be shared into the groups for division.



6. Lego is brilliant for maths. It can be used for counting, sorting into groups and built into towers to represent times table.