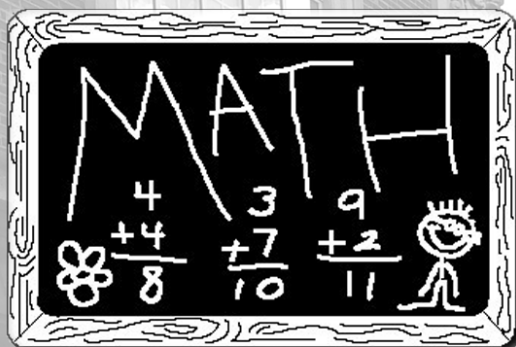




# Ysgol Uwchradd **CATHAYS** High School

## NUMERACY



Topics and Tips to  
help your child

Version 1, 2010

At **CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL** we recognise the importance of numeracy skills, and wish to make sure that children develop sound mathematical skills before they enter the adult world.

We appreciate the contribution that parents and carers make to their child's education.

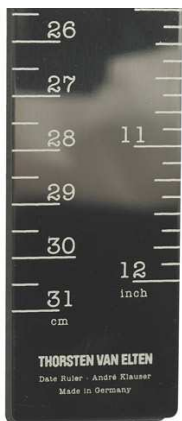
This booklet therefore is part of an initiative currently undertaken by **CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL** to encourage parents to help their children develop numeracy skills.

Parents often ask teachers ***"What can I do at home to help my child with maths?"*** **the most effective support you can offer your child is time!**

Talk to your child about mathematics. If you think about it, you are probably already doing a lot of mathematics at home without realising it. If you involve your child, you will help them learn. Remember though, that mathematics at home is meant to be fun! You should enjoy it – and so should your child. The following pages give some topics and tips to help you involve your children in learning important life skills.

**A. GHELALI**, Numeracy Co-ordinator

## ***Measurement***



Measurement is a mathematical skill taught in school in many subjects and used in many places around the home including the kitchen, bedrooms and the garden.

Children learn measurement words quite naturally from being with adults if you talk to them about it. They will find out, which words you use for measuring different things: that juice comes in litres not pounds, or centimetres.

Children also learn about measuring tools. They learn that tape measures are for length and height, that scales are for weight, measuring jugs are for capacity and clocks and calendars are for time.

**IN THE KITCHEN** – if we couldn't use certain mathematical skills in the kitchen, then cakes would be too sweet, dinner not cooked enough, or our meat pies too soggy. (YUCK!)

In the kitchen, many ingredients have to be measured before cooking. Children can learn a lot about measurement and measuring tools in the kitchen. You can ask your child to measure out the ingredients. See if they can do simple sums, like how much pasta to cook for the family if each person needs 75 grains (or 100 grams). And help yourself get used to grams and litres by using the metric measurements in recipes.

## ***Temperature***

Temperature is an important topic in your child's school subjects. It can be found in Science, Geography, Home Economics and others. In mathematics, we often use temperature scales (thermometers) to help pupils understand the concept of Negative Numbers.

Help your child understand this topic by involving them every time you switch the oven to a certain heat or store food to a given temperature. For example, milk has to be stored under 4C, ice cream has to be stored under 18C or switch the oven to 180C.



## ***Time***



Time is another important topic in your child's school subjects. Give them the opportunity to practice what they learn in school about Time. Let them work out for you how long the cooking will take, how long to cool it or how long a particular product has before it expires. Use magazines to find out when a TV programme is on and to set the video recorder.

## ***Ratio and Proportion***

You fancy cooking a cake that your friend gave you the recipe for. The ingredients are for 8 people, but you need to make one for 3 people only! What do you do? Well, don't suffer in silence, ask your child to get involved.



There are lots of opportunities for your child to practice Numeracy in the garden. Ask them to measure the area of the garden, preferably in metre squared. They could convert every measurement from Imperial to Metric or vice versa.

### **TIME FOR A BIT OF DIY**



This is a great opportunity for your child to practice their number skills. Get your child to measure up a wall to be tiled and work out the surface area in square metres. Give him/her the catalogue or take them with you to the DIY store and ask them to work out how many tiles (of a particular size) are needed to cover the wall, or how many rolls are needed in the case of wallpaper.

### ***WATCHING A FILM – TIME FOR A TAKEAWAY***

When you want to order a take away, tell your child the amount of money you've got to spend and give them the responsibility of writing and calculating the order from the menu to see if there is enough money to cater for everybody's different tastes in the family.

### ***OUT SHOPPING***

Why not give them the responsibility of working out the running total of your shopping list as you wheel your trolley round the supermarket? (Make sure you have extra cash though!!). When you finish shopping sit down together and compare your child's total against the till receipt. Let them also work out which products are better value for money, for example a one 3kg bag of long grain rice for £3.50 or a 1.5kg (of the same product) for £1.90. They can also work out the exact savings when buying goods in bulk. You can even set them a task of working out (roughly) how much money is spent on every member of the household in a given month by collecting and keeping receipts.



When out shopping for clothes, look for those items in a sale and ask them to work out the percentage reduction in price.

# ***NUMERACY ON THE WEB***



**THE INTERNET IS A WONDERFUL SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND MATERIALS TO HELP PARENTS BOTH UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE DOING IN NUMERACY TODAY AND HELP THEIR CHILDREN WITH NUMBER ACTIVITIES AT HOME.**

The following is a collection of Web Addresses, which you may find helpful. A short description of what you will find on each site is added:

<http://www.mathsyear2000.org/games/index/shtml> A very useful collection of games and information is still available from this Government site. Reliable and fun too.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/parents/> This is the DFES 'Parents' Centre' – follow the links at the bottom left to find out about the National Curriculum and more.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/> This is the BBC's site. It is a huge site with many links and provides a fantastic range of excellent games, puzzles and information.

For additional ways of helping your child – try these links:

<http://www.parentcentre.gov.uk>

<http://www.counton.org>

[www.fathersdirect.com](http://www.fathersdirect.com)

[www.bookstart.co.uk](http://www.bookstart.co.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize)

[www.mathsrevision.net](http://www.mathsrevision.net)

[www.mathsmadeeasy.co.uk](http://www.mathsmadeeasy.co.uk)

Happy surfing – if you find any useful sites, please let us know!

Our website address is:

<http://web.cathays.cardiff.sch.uk>

For further advice and guidance on numeracy contact:

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