

Teaching Maths Concepts to Children with ASD

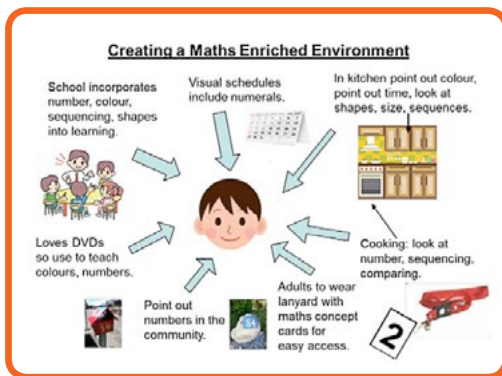
Sue Larkey
TOP TIPS



Maths is more than numbers and we should aim to start teaching maths concepts to children in their early childhood. Teaching children about colours, shapes and categories are the first basic maths steps and is a great starting point. We typically begin with simple matching and labelling, and using a child's special interest is the key to understanding basic maths concepts as young children with ASD learn best when it has meaning for them. When you move on to teaching maths we start with teaching number concepts not counting as you would with a typical developing child. Because many skills cannot be taught until pre-requisite skills are achieved it is important to develop a maths programme in early childhood.

11 Top Tips for Teaching Maths Concepts

1. Ensure the child has maths enriched environments.



2. Focus on teaching maths concepts not rote counting.

When teaching maths we start with teaching number concepts not counting as you would with a typical developing child.

3. Use the child's special interest. This is the key to making children understanding basic maths concepts.

4. Make maths functional (food, cooking, shopping).

5. Make maths fun and enjoyable (songs, concrete activities – counters, etc.)

6. Be eclectic; try lots of different ideas and strategies – remember not every strategy works for everyone.

7. Use computer games, and iPad to reinforce and teach concepts i.e. Mathletics, Times Tables Apps, Telling Time Apps etc.

8. Incidental teaching is where you follow your child's lead, responding as situations occur during the day, e.g. count food as you give to the child – "one, two, three shape biscuits"; verbalise activities – "Mummy wants three biscuits"; and general observations e.g. when pushing a floor button in lift say "I want floor number five".

9. There are lots of situations during your everyday activities when you can count 'how many', 'how long to wait', 'match shapes/colours' or point out 'what is different'. These are all very important maths concepts and the more you incorporate in everyday situations the quicker the child will learn and generalise.

10. Use rewards and motivators.

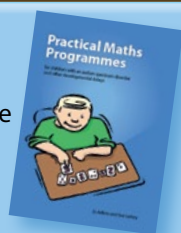
11. Be persistent and REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT.

Practical Maths Programmes by Jo Adkins and Sue Larkey provides a sequential order of learning in most activities because many skills cannot be taught until pre-requisite skills are taught and achieved. Children with ASD learn best through repetition and this book provides lots of fun activities the children will want to do 'over and over again!'

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Practical Maths Programmes

By Jo Adkins & Sue Larkey



Visual Maths Addition Set

by Jo Adkins & Sue Larkey



For more tip sheets, to sign up for a free newsletter or request a free catalogue, visit: www.suelarkey.com