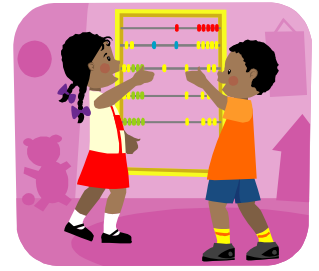




EARLY MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES



Mathematical concepts are important for everyday living and should develop during normal play activities in every area of play, with the use of all resources. They should develop naturally and in a fun way for young children. Adults often think of the negative experiences and emotions they recall from their early school experiences of 'maths' or 'sums'. Our aim is to make sure that 'maths is fun' for children and parents, highlighting the activities we provide in school to support such learning and making suggestions for activities at home.

In The Grove Nursery School, the children are encouraged to problem solve at their own stage of development through one to one staff involvement or by working in a small group. Through fun filled games and activities, such as counting, sequencing, sorting, matching activities, jigsaws and play with natural materials such as sand, water and blocks, the children begin to understand such concepts as size, length, weight, comparisons, capacity, shape handling and recognition. They happily and naturally hear and use such mathematical terminology as "light, heavier than, full, empty, old, more than, long, tall, how many?" By reciting songs and number rhymes and by being exposed to stories with an element of number or size, the children learn to count or sequence number in a non-threatening way. Every month our song sheets include number rhymes. Do use these at home with your child to reinforce learning! See 'Parents' Area' on web site.

The staff monitor the children's progress in all areas of the curriculum through regular and systematic classroom observations. From these observations, we collectively evaluate the play provision and plan the level of support to ensure each child's progress.

Each child has free access to ICT facilities, I Pads, the use of the photocopier to record their 'mark making' efforts and from Term 2 can take and print their own digital photos.

