Connecting Maths to real life

 **Incorporate the basic maths concepts into everyday activities. This demonstrates to the children the purpose of maths in the real world.**

* Makes it meaningful
* Links new information to old - our brains seeks to make patterns.
1. **Practice shape recognition in the environment:**

Spot various shapes in the environment:

* Slices of pizza or the roof of a house are triangular.
* A pringle container is a cylinder
* A football is a sphere
* An ice cream cone is a cone etc.

As you talk about different shapes, have them describe why a shape is a triangle (three sides) or a square (four equal sides) etc.

1. **Counting:**

Counting of cars / houses/ sweets / teddies – counting in 2’s.

Formulating a word problem based on a real life situation –

e.g. If 3 friends came over and a pizza was divided into 8 slices how many slices would you eat each if shared equally?

#### Develop an Understanding of Units of Time:

* Tell the time on analogue and digital clocks –
* what time is it now?
* What time will it will it be in 20 mins?
* Reading the calendar
* On what date did last Saturday fall?
* On what day was October 13th?
* How many days in January?
* How many weekdays in November?
* How many Mondays will there be in March?
* How many weeks until your birthday / Christmas ?
* How many days until the Summer Holidays?
* Use a timer for activities like watching TV or using the computer, so that your child becomes familiar with the concept of time and how long different units of time last. If your child doesn't want to leave the playground, say they can stay for 5 more minutes. They will start to develop an understanding of time and how long different units of time last if you do this regularly.
* Practice using timetables:

- When is the next bus into town? How many minutes away is that?

- If the journey takes 20 minutes, what time will the bus arrive into town at?

1. **Learn to Count Money:**

Let your child estimate / calculate the change when shopping – let them pay for items and check if they were right.

1. **Measures:**
* In the kitchen:

- measuring ingredients to follow a recipe

- converting g to Kg or ml to L

- multiplying /dividing fractions to account for more or less than a single batch

* Measuring household items with a ruler / measuring tape – children could create their own measuring device e.g. sticking lollipop sticks together.
* Mini Olympics: Measuring distance of beanbag throwing / long jump
* Tracking growth of seeds they plant

#### Practice Sequencing:

Practice sequencing- Ask them to describe the sequence of events that took place in the day, in a movie they saw, or in a story they read.

#### Play Family Games with Math:

Plenty of family games incorporate maths. Tic tac toe, Connect Four, and dominoes are just some of the many games that help build math skills.

1. **Jigsaw puzzles:**

Doing puzzles is a great way to develop important visual discrimination skills, or the ability to recognize differences and similarities in shape, form, pattern, size, position, and colour.