

Everyday experiences

Opportunities to explore and engage

As children participate in everyday experiences with their family, they are provided with meaningful learning opportunities to explore and engage with numeracy, literacy and language.

Mathematical thinking, concepts and language can be promoted as parents talk with their child and draw attention to mathematics in real life.

Support learning

Ideas for cooking and baking

- Count out with your child how many eggs are needed.
- Measure how much flour or milk is needed.
- Talk about full, empty, nearly full, nearly empty, level, light, heavy and heaviest.
- Talk about big, little, long, short, thick and thin shapes.

Ideas for preparing a snack or meal

- Talk about what food is healthy and where foods come from.
- Encourage healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands before handling food.
- Talk about how many people are eating the meal and how many sandwiches to make.

- Sort food — fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy — and talk about where they belong in the kitchen such as the fridge or pantry.

Ideas for putting away the dishes

- Sort the dishes into groups that are the same such as plates, cups and bowls. You could also sort items by shape (e.g. round things, square things) or size (e.g. big, middle-sized, small).
- Encourage your child to sort the cutlery into groups with similar attributes such as small teaspoons, butter knives and forks.

Ideas for jobs around the home

- Talk about what jobs need to be done. Make a list of jobs to do in order and decide on when they will be done (e.g. before lunch, this afternoon, tomorrow).
- Encourage your child to help you with repairing and putting things together.
- Talk about how to cover areas as your child is helping wash surfaces down or watering the garden (e.g. water the whole garden or wipe the bench up to the sink).
- Encourage safety around the home such as wearing shoes out in the yard, and getting help to lift things that are heavy.



Ideas for caring for family pets and animals

- Talk with your child about what they need to do to care for their pet such as giving it food, water and shelter.
- Talk about the size, colour and features of their pet and compare these with other animals.
- Have your child help pour water and food, brush, clean and give their pet exercise.

Ideas for helping with the washing

- Talk about the attributes that are the same and sort washing into groups (e.g. put all the towels in one pile or items that are the same colour in a pile).
- Encourage your child to count items such as pegs or socks as you hang out the washing.

Ideas for helping with packing up

- Count the toys as you work together to put them away at the end of a play session.
- Make a game of sorting the toys and putting them in groups (e.g. all the dolls or cars together and all the blocks in a box).
- Talk about the size of toys and order these from biggest to smallest.



Ideas for going shopping

- Name and talk about the different types of food displayed.
- Have children select the packets, bottles and tins you want from the shelves.
- Read the brand names on packets.
- Watch food being weighed, count out how many items and money.
- Have your child help sort and put away the groceries at home.

Encourage your child to explore language, literacy and numeracy

- Introduce new words related to everyday experiences (e.g. use words such as recipe, ingredients, sift and beat when cooking with your child).
- Read print and talk about letters and numbers you are using during the day.
- Talk with your child about the things that you are doing.
- Encourage them to ask and answer questions to find out more.



For further information, visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only, and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.