

Using Families Learning Together

Guidance for Parents

If you have accessed Families Learning Together through your child's school, your child's teacher will guide you to the units in focus.

If you have purchased Families Learning Together for your own use at home with your child the following guidance will help you.

How do we know which units to focus on?

Families Learning Together is a flexible resource that can be shaped to the needs of your child. There is no strict order in which the units have to be used. However, a sensible approach is:

- Look together at the age appropriate units first. These run in a logical order, with the later units building on the skills developed in the earlier units.
- Remember that this is not a 'race'. Unlike some other online maths resources, the object is not to complete as many units as possible in the shortest time. The purpose is to take the time needed to talk together about maths, develop confidence and understanding so that your child can tackle maths successfully.
- Even if your child finds the first units 'easy', take a little time to talk them through to ensure they have a sufficient and secure understanding of it.
- If they are ready to move on use the **Maths Skills Guide** to help you find the next appropriate level in that focus.

What do we do with each unit once we have selected it?

- Watch the **Activity Video(s)** together and any **Demonstration Video(s)**. These will give you a precise explanation of the learning that is being sought. Talk together about what you see in the videos and how you understand the explanations.
- Have a look at the **Activity Sheet(s)** together and have a go at them. Remember to talk about them as you work through them together. The very

best thing you can do is to ask your child questions so they explain their thinking and reasoning to you out loud.

- Take some time - each unit is designed to last for 1-2 weeks of short discussions and repeated activity. Explore skills more than once to check and secure them.

What do we do if my child finds the maths too difficult or too easy?

The activities in Families Learning Together match the skills expected from each age group in the National Curriculum. However, different children progress in maths at very different rates, and even by 11 years old the range can be +/- 18 months.

If your child finds it difficult to understand the concepts in a unit explore it carefully and watch the video explanations together. If they still find it difficult, use a corresponding unit from a previous age group. The **Strand Guide** will help you identify this.

If your child is coping successfully with a unit make sure they can explain their thinking and method fully. If they are confident, try a corresponding unit from the next year group.

What happens if we run out of questions to do?

Families Learning Together provides a reasonable number of example questions to work together. The key purpose is to talk through them together, exploring your child's thinking as they calculate answers. **This is the golden opportunity you have that is more difficult to provide in a class setting.**

If you complete the examples successfully but still want more then the best solution is for your child to create more examples for themselves. This gives them the opportunity for initiative and ownership of their own learning.

Endless repetition is not needed - the result we are seeking is depth of learning, not pages of 'correct sums'.