

Golden Rules

- DO give LOTS of praise. Resist the temptation to point out mistakes every time a child does a 'sum' wrong. Children need encouragement to be confident, and a confident child makes a better learner.
- DON'T push a skill, especially if a child is becoming confused or is feeling pressured. It pays to talk to the teacher if you feel your child is not understanding something, rather than confuse them further by teaching them in a different way.
- DO play games! Dice, dominoes, track games and cards all make excellent excuses for using applying our number skills. The evidence shows that children who play games do better at maths!
- DON'T force workbooks on your child. They will do plenty of writing in their maths books at school. At home, it is great to help them memorise number facts and to practise doing simple calculations in our heads as we need them!
- DON'T stress written sums laid out as you used to do them! Nowadays it is the development of what we call 'numerical fluency' that counts. Children need to be comfortable with numbers, to understand how they work and to be confident in doing mental calculations.