

## Golden rules

- **DO 'little and often'!** Counting on the stairs, doing up buttons or jumping into the bath, is a relaxed way of reinforcing and practising this skill.
- **DON'T push a skill**, such as counting, if a child is tired or bored. They may come to feel 'pressured' and have a natural reaction against it.
- **DO give LOTS of praise.** Resist the temptation to say, 'but' or to point out mistakes every time. Children need encouragement and positive reinforcement to be confident, and a confident child makes a better learner.
- **DO play games!** Jigsaws and games of all sorts make excellent excuses for helping your child do maths whilst sharing something important together and having fun!
- **DON'T worry about your child doing written sums!** Children will learn to write their numbers and record their maths at school, where teachers will ensure that they do these things correctly. At home it is the mental maths that counts!
- **DO remember** that your focussed attention is a far more important and pleasurable commodity for any child than any amount of TV or video game activity. Every child wants to be doing things one-on-one with someone they love and trust.