

12 TOP TIPS FOR MATHS

- 1. Aid awareness of numbers by playing games,**
e.g. Mancala and card games with traditional decks of cards.
- 2. Use 'concrete' materials and hands-on multisensory methods,**
e.g. Cuisenaire rods, counters, sweets, blocks, Lego, etc.
- 3. Play counting games,** e.g. forwards, backwards, in two's, forward in tens from 16, etc.
- 4. Point out patterns,** e.g. in multiplication tables – 2, 4, 6, 8.
- 5. Use the words 'groups of'** instead of times for tables, e.g. 5×4 means 5 groups of 4.
- 6. Explain mathematical processes and use visual cues** rather than just saying, 'Do it like this.' Check understanding each step of the way.
- 7. Explain mistakes clearly** and show how to correct them. Check understanding each step of the way.
- 8. Don't expect or rely on rote-learning.** Many learners with SpLD have weak memory skills and won't be able to rely on memorising. It's much more useful to teach them to use resources such as multiplication squares, write down their working out, use colour, doodles, etc.
- 9. Use over-learning** and be prepared to repeat, practice and try different ways of learning.
- 10. Teach through games and use topics** that interest and motivate your child, e.g. planning a party, shopping or saving for a desirable item.
- 11. Use everyday situations as learning opportunities,** e.g. going to the supermarket, cooking and baking, laying the table, loading the dishwasher or washing machine.
- 12. Tap into the child's interests and relate maths work** to things that they enjoy doing, e.g. baking, swimming, designing, creating, etc.

