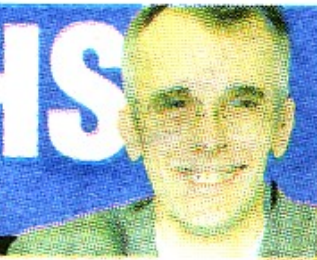


DR MATHS

email: DRMaths@hotmail.co.uk



Dear Dr Maths,

With the summer holiday approaching, can you suggest any fun maths-related activities I could do with my children?

Susan, Newcastle.

There are lots of things you can do with children that can help to develop a greater mathematical understanding. Most of these activities do not even seem mathematical to children, as maths is so deeply linked to our daily life.

Card games, board games and dice games develop a variety of skills, from basic number work through to high-level logic and strategy skills.

Some of my favourite games for maths skills are Monopoly, Risk and Yahtzee. The card game SET teaches a range of logic and pattern-spotting skills.

I also feel that some maths card tricks can be used to help show how magical mathematics can be.

Cooking together teaches children about weights and measures. If a recipe is for two and you want to make it for five, you have to think about ratios. In this case, you would have to double the ingredients and then add half the initial amount again.

English Heritage and National Trust sites all offer some lovely opportunities to see that maths is all around us in architecture and mazes. When exploring mazes, ask how many ways there are to reach the centre. What kinds of shapes can you see?

The National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics has a section on its website called learning maths outside the classroom. Go to ncetm.org.uk.

Here is a puzzle for you to try: With only three seats in your living room, how many different ways can two people sit in these? Write in with your answers to the address below and the first correct entry drawn will win Mathematical Snacks, published by Tarquin.

Well done to Mr Sharp from Newcastle who correctly worked out that the next numbers in last week's patterns were (a) 243, (b) 39 and (c) 111.

■ **Do you have a maths question? Write to Dr Maths, Evening Chronicle, Groat Market, Newcastle NE1 1ED or DRMaths@hotmail.co.uk**