



# Take it Outside - Maths!

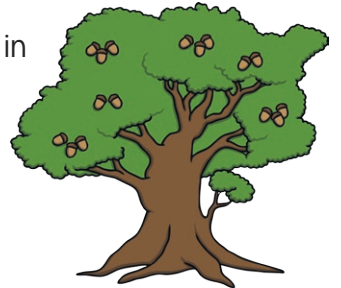
## Simple Ideas for Inspiring Outdoor Maths

### Make a Maths Trail

Use our lovely [Outdoor Maths Challenge Cards](#) to inspire mathematical thinking. Challenge children to create their own outdoor maths cards for their friends or another class.

### Find the Oldest Tree

Use a simple calculation to estimate and calculate the oldest tree in your school grounds or the local environment. Measure one metre from the ground and then find the circumference of the tree. Using a calculator, divide the circumference by 2.5cm to give an approximate age for the tree. Create a chart to show the ages of the tree in your grounds.



### Make a Number Line

Using chalk, challenge children to create their own number lines. Call out calculations for the children to solve by jumping up and down their own number line.

### Magic Maths Sticks

Cut straight sticks to different lengths - 10cm, 50cm, 1m. Can children find items that are longer or shorter than these sticks? Can children place them in order? Challenge children to estimate, compare and measure different lengths using the sticks. For example, which stick would be most useful for estimating and measuring the length of the playground? The sticks can also be used to create 2D shapes and right angles.

### Chalk It Up!

Create large scale sorting diagrams such as Carroll and Venn diagrams and large scale bar charts. Provide children with a collecting bag to collect materials from the outdoor environment. Can children organise the materials into the sorting diagram?

### Make a Maze

In pairs, children create a simple maze using playground equipment and chalk. In pairs, one child will give instructions while the second child follows them to find their way around the maze. The second child may be blindfolded for an additional level of challenge. Children should practise using vocabulary for position and direction such as right turn, left turn, clockwise and anticlockwise. Older children can be challenged to complete the maze using only the vocabulary for turns (90° clockwise; 180° anticlockwise).



### Splat the Number!

Chalk numbers on outdoor walls and fences. Provide children with a fly swatter. Ask children mental maths questions, appropriate to their age and understanding. Children should run to and 'splat' the number which represents the correct answer.

### Count the Catches

In pairs, children throw a ball to each other, varying in size dependent on children's physical skills. Beanbags could be used for younger children. Children count each catch out loud until the ball is dropped. Which pair can count to the largest number? Older children can count in multiples.

### Shape Hunting

Provide children with clipboards and pens. What shapes can we find outside? Encourage children to look carefully at the shapes and patterns hidden within other objects. Children could search for and identify 2D and 3D shapes and describe their properties. Use these shape hunt sheets to support children with recording their work:

- [2D Shape Hunt Activity Sheet](#)
- [3D Shape Hunt Activity Sheet](#)

### Scavenger Hunt

Use this [Weights and Measures Scavenger Hunt](#) resource to inspire thinking about weights and measures in your outdoor area.

### Symmetry Hunt

Look at the school doors. Are they symmetrical? How do you know? Challenge children to find other symmetrical shapes in the school building and outdoor area.