

## Practical mathematics

Practical mathematics (e.g. with blocks, sand, water and games) provide valuable mathematical experiences, but are not *directly* related to children's understanding of *written* mathematics.

**Children learn about written mathematics through using their own written mathematics.**

**Children's own mathematical graphics supports their development and helps them understand the abstract symbols of mathematics. It helps them develop their understanding of written methods of calculations, problem solving, data handling and all areas of mathematics.**

**It lays a firm foundation for the school mathematics they will meet as they move into school (in England, following the Early Years Foundation phase).**