

Reading bar charts and tables

Key learning

Interpret bar charts and tables and use them to locate information and answer questions.

Check that your child can:

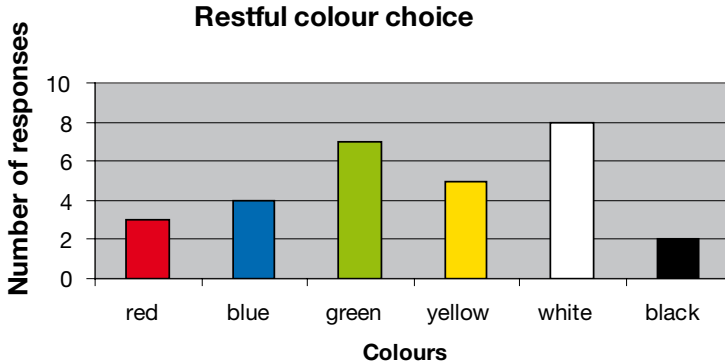
- read a scale on a bar chart;
- use the scale to read what the values of the bars in a bar chart represent and explain how they did this;
- find data in a table and use the information to answer questions.

Notes for parents/carers

There are lots of opportunities to find and read bar charts in newspapers or on the Internet. Tables of information often appear in leaflets found in shops or distributed by post.

Look out for local takeaway menus, tables of charges to parks and cinemas or tables of information in guides or magazines. For example, use a tourist information leaflet to work out costs of visits.

A group of children asked 36 adults which of six colours they thought was most restful to paint a room. Their results are shown in the bar chart below.



- Put the colour choices in order of popularity.
- How many more adults chose green than black?
- How many adults are represented by the bar chart?
- How many adults refused to make a choice?

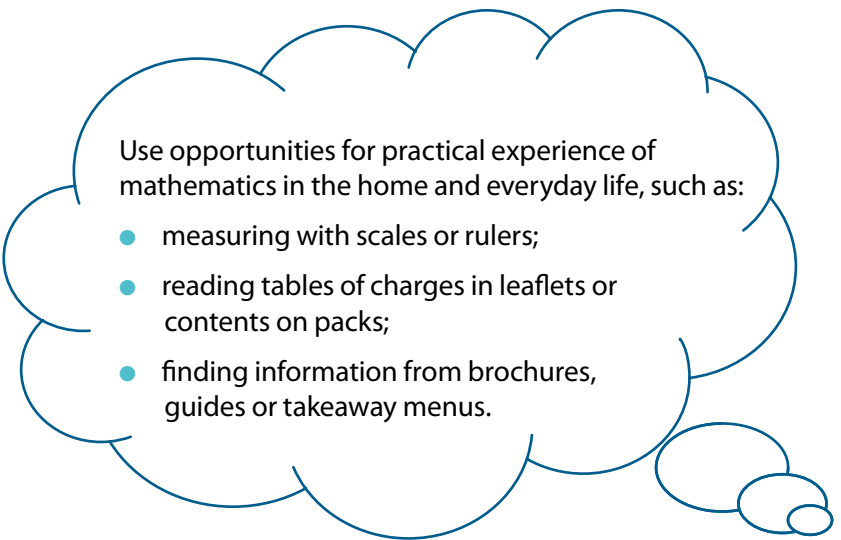
Visiting a water park

	Wild Wetlands Water Park	
	November to March	April to October
Adults	£5.50	£9.40
Children below 16 years	£3.60	£5.70
Families of 4 with 2 children	£15.80	£25.80

- In January, how much more does it cost an adult than a child to visit the park?
- Three children have £20 to spend to visit the park in their summer holidays. How much would they have left to spend on food after they paid to get into the park?
- What is the lowest cost for a family with two adults and three children who visit the park in December and then later in June?

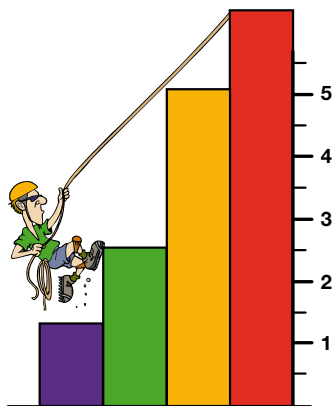
Look out for price lists for local events and leisure centres and use them to make up similar problems.

'Let's talk about maths'



Use opportunities for practical experience of mathematics in the home and everyday life, such as:

- measuring with scales or rulers;
- reading tables of charges in leaflets or contents on packs;
- finding information from brochures, guides or takeaway menus.



Asking a question about what your child has learnt (or found difficult) in mathematics is often better than telling them.

Activities to carry out together

Use newspapers, holiday brochures, magazines and leaflets to find examples of charts and tables.

- Use a takeaway price list to work out the cost of a meal for the family.
- Find bar charts in newspapers and discuss the information the bar chart represents.
- Use last week's supermarket till receipt to help work out how much this week's shopping is likely to cost.
- Find temperature bar charts in holiday brochures; find resorts with temperatures of 30 °C or more.

ICT links

Use the Internet to find other examples of bar charts and tables to plan an event or to find information. Look for bar charts showing temperatures around the world.

Ask your child to compare who won the most gold medals in the Olympics in 2000 with what happened in 2004.