

Everyday activities designed to help young children with their maths learning

Research shows that in their first year of school, one in four children who live in Australia's most disadvantaged communities start school behind on literacy and numeracy*, and that generally those children who start behind, stay behind.

The *Let's Count* Parent bot on Facebook Messenger is an interactive platform that uses everyday activities and objects to suggest ways in which parents and carers can support their children's maths learning.

The tool works just like Facebook Messenger, with a series of activities suggested by the bot which the user can weave into their everyday life to help their child notice, explore, and talk about mathematics.

These can include counting steps on a walk, ordering fruit by weight whilst shopping or comparing the shapes of street signs during car journeys.

Parents who tested the tool said it showed them new ways of thinking about maths with their children.

"Maths can be anything, from cooking to shapes, it all helps," said Jodi (NSW).

"I love the little characters, they are cute and very relevant to me and my children," said Courtney (NSW).

"The tool gave me ideas and words to use with my kids and made overwhelming tasks like tidying their room fun and educational by sorting and matching," said Karen (Vic).

The Smith Family's *Let's Count* Parent bot on Facebook Messenger demonstrates that with the use of accessible technology, the organisation can play an important role in supporting parents, and in turn, benefitting children, at a vital development stage in their lives.

Explore the bot for yourself [here](#)

*Australian Early Development Census National Report 2018, Commonwealth of Australia, 2019.