Helping your child with - representing and interpreting graphs and tables

Graphs make it easy to record and interpret information as well as help us to make predictions such as predicting the weather, interest rates, and the future cost of our homes electricity usage. Children will learn to read and interpret graphs and tables not only in Mathematics lessons but also during Science and other lesson too.

How do children learn to make and interpret graphs and tables?

Initially children learn to construct graphs by collecting information in the tables and then using objects or pictures to represent this information as a graph. Typically, in the early years, children will be asked by their teacher to collect and record information about themselves, such as hair colour, the colour of the eyes, or about the pets they own. In early graphs, one picture stands for one object. Later, children will learn to use tally marks to represent the results of surveys. They will also be introduced to different types of graphs such as: column graphs, line graphs and sector (pie) graphs.

What can you do at home?

- Measure the height or weight of your child and track the changes over time on a graph.

- Show your child household bills which include graphs, such as water or an electricity account and ask questions such as, *how much more or less water did we use this time compared to the last bill?*

- Together with your child, keep track of the time he or she spends watching television. At the end of the week, see if together you can make a graph to show the time spent.

- Play games such as Scissors, paper, rock with your child and use tally marks to keep a record of who wins and losses.

- With your child, read and discuss information shown on sporting competition tables.

- Show your child how to locate and use a table of contents in a book.

Favourite part of Christmas	Number of people
Decorating the tree	卌 IIII
Opening presents	卌 卌 I
Playing in snow	IIII
Carols and music	III
Time with friends and family	卌 I
Christmas food	II

bar graph

Student survey - favourite fruits

(mangoes 20, apples 60, grapes 80, bananas 100, oranges 50)