

Your child is learning about the days of the week. This is done by means of games, poems, songs and activities using concrete materials. Your child needs to know the mathematical language associated with the days of the week – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, schoolday, weekday, weekend, comes before/after, between, next to, etc.

In order for your child to be able to make predictions about what might happen on a particular day, s/he must first know the days of the week and the sequence in which they come.

## The first day of the week

The categorising of the first day of the week differs from country to country. Some have Sunday as the first day with Saturday as the last day. Other countries have Monday as the first day with Sunday as the last day. In Ireland, we call Monday through to Friday weekdays with Saturday and Sunday classed as the weekend. You don't need to explain this to your child but for the purposes of our activities, we are taking Monday as the first day of the week. This is shown in the words of the two songs that follow.

## Activity: Order the days of the week

Write the names of the days of the week on pieces of paper. You may prefer to write the names on Post-it stickers. Place the names of the week randomly on the kitchen table. Now ask your child to place the names in order starting with Monday. Then ask a number of questions but always try to make them fun, such as:

- *Can you pass me Monday?*
- *Which day comes after Wednesday?*
- *Hand me the day that comes just before Sunday.*
- *Give me the day that comes between Thursday and Saturday.*
- *Hand me the last day of the week.*
- *Show me the days you have to go to school.*
- *Show me the days when you don't have to go to school.*
- *Which is your favourite day? Why?*

## Poetry/Music

Read the titles of both poems/songs before reading/singing. Ask your child what s/he thinks each poem/song is about.

Recite/sing the song 'The Days of the Week' with your child. It can be sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'.

### **The Days of the Week**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday too,  
Thursday, Friday, all for you.  
Saturday, Sunday, that's them all.  
All those days we will recall.  
(Sing two or three times.)

Recite/sing the poem/song 'Let's All Sing' with your child. It can be sung to the tune of 'Frère Jacques'.

### **Let's All Sing**

Here we ha-ve  
The days of the week.  
Let's all sing,  
Let's all sing.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
Su-n-day.  
My favourite day!

When you are finished reading, ask him/her if their predictions about the content of the poems/songs were correct. Explain any word that causes difficulty for your child.

## Writing the days of the week

Ask your child to write the days of the week into their copy or onto a sheet of paper using only the script from their schoolbook.

## The days around us

Ask your child to find the name of any day on objects around the house, e.g. calendars, daily paper, magazines, mobile phones, diary, school homework diary, etc.

**Variation:** Ask your child if s/he can find the day of his/her birthday on a calendar.