



Measuring; Number Play; Numbers; Patterns; Shapes; Sorting; Maths Course

Books Reviewed:

[Measuring](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[Number Play](#) [2]

Books Reviewed:

[Numbers](#) [3]

Books Reviewed:

[Patterns](#) [4]

Books Reviewed:

[Shapes](#) [5]

Books Reviewed:

[Sorting](#) [6]

Books Reviewed:

[Maths Course](#) [7]

Issue:

[96](#) [8]

Reviewer:

[Ted Percy](#) [9]

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off

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Book

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0

'Minimaths' aspires to bring basic kids and basic maths together, with one idea per spread and a 'Thing to do' as reinforcement. **Numbers** deals with counting itself, with sums, signs and fractions; **Sorting** ranges widely - from sets through pictographs and Venn diagrams to elementary taxonomy. **Measuring** considers relative size, mass, and capacity of substance and time and units of measurement (both standard and improvised) to show how you can have a long weight in a short while. **Patterns** is the most fertile of the six: sequences, periodicity, regularity and probability lead to prediction and design, gaining much from the information already gleaned in **Shapes**. **Number Play** brings together many elements from the other five for fun -I especially liked the triangular dominoes. There's nothing revolutionary or breathtaking here, and occasionally Kirkby's statements could be more precise, but sharing will overcome that, and the consistency of Chris Honeywell's photographs provides not only an admirable clarity but a friendly unity of style.

Maths Course is the perfect antidote to all such well intentioned but essentially precious production.

Still, I hope, best remembered for the hatchet job they did with **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**, Scieszka and

Lane here present the '1066 and all that' of primary mathematics - healthy iconoclasm laced with memorable truths and good laughs. Utterly transatlantic, this offers as many sidelights on the American way of school as, say, a Judy Blume, as well as introducing many bizarre trains of thought. Now, every stop on a train of thought is a junction, so change here for an original view of the role of maths in life's rich pageant and, while you await your connection, ponder whether 'tunafish + tunafish = fournafish'.

Running Order:

8

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Links:

- [1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/measuring>
- [2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/number-play>
- [3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/numbers>
- [4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/patterns>
- [5] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/shapes>
- [6] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/sorting>
- [7] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/maths-course>
- [8] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/96>
- [9] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/ted-percy>