Skillswise

Extracting and interpreting data from line graphs

Temperature of baby over a week 39.0 38.5 38.0 Temperature 37.5 37.0 36.5 36.0 Wednesday Thursday TURSDAY Saturday Sunday Nonday Friday Days

Here is an example of a **line graph** showing temperature in °C plotted over a week.

Extracting data requires being able to read information from the line graph.

For example, if asked to find the temperature on Wednesday then start at the point for Wednesday on the horizontal axis, go straight up until you find the point on the line for Wednesday and then across to the vertical axis, giving a reading of 37.5°C.

Interpreting data requires you to understand the information you are getting from the graph and be able to say what it means.

For example, you might be asked to find the highest temperature shown on the graph, so you will need to find the highest point on the graph and read the temperature at that point (about 38.4°C in the graph above).

You might be asked to find out when the baby's temperature starts to fall. In this case you will need to look at what is happening to the line - it starts by going up meaning that the temperature is going up or rising, until Monday. After Monday the line starts going down, meaning that the temperature is going down or falling.