

Supporting Early Number

Numeracy skills aren't just an **important** part of the curriculum - they're a vital life **skill**. It helps them to recognise, create and describe patterns, which is essential for **early** problem-solving skills. Introducing **maths** to children from an **early** age helps to develop their understanding of all elements of problem solving and reasoning in a broad range of contexts.

Here are some ways you can support your child with developing their early number skills.

Encourage your child to help you by counting in everyday life so they can see the importance and use of it. Ask them to help you when out shopping by counting and collecting objects to put into the basket/trolley e.g. "Can you get 4 apples please?" Support your child to help make simple recipes by counting amounts e.g. "Can you put 2 spoons of cocoa in the bowl?"

Play with numbers when playing with your child:

- With Duplo or Lego count how many of each size or colour
- Play simple board games and encourage them to count the spots on the dice and move the number of spaces
- Count the steps when you walk up or downstairs
- Play dominoes to learn numbers and turn taking
- Count backwards before a 'race' to introduce your child to the pattern of numbers backwards as well as forwards

Sing number-themed counting rhymes and use your fingers or small props to help count the items:

- 10 Green Bottles
- Once I Caught a Fish Alive
- 1,2 Buckle my Shoe
- 5 Little Ducks
- 5 Currant Buns
- 10 Fat Sausages
- 5 Little Speckled Frogs

Read number-themed books and count the sets of pictures:

- Goldilocks and the Three Bears – count the bears, bowls and beds
- The Three Billy Goat's Gruff
- The Ten Little series
- 1 to 20 Animals Aplenty
- 1,2,3 to the Zoo
- 10 Little Rubber Ducks