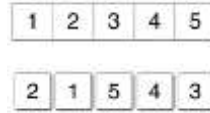


Early number concepts - Ways to help your child

Getting to know numbers:

- Count as you climb the stairs, put toys into the toy box etc. Say the numbers out loud as you count. Encourage your child to join in with the counting.
- Sing number songs, e.g: 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive, 3 little monkeys etc.
- As children become familiar with the order of the numbers, ask them which number comes next etc.
- Show your child numbers written in the correct order.



Enumeration - The counting of a set of objects using 1-1 correspondence, saying one counting word for each object.

- Make sets of objects when playing or in real life situations, e.g. how many cars have you got, how many biscuits are on the plate?
- Strategies such as touch counting objects in a line or moving each object as you count it helps with this stage.



Cardinality:

Counting to work out the total number of objects in the set.

- Make groups of objects and ask your child to count and tell you how many there are (match to a written number).
- When shopping count the objects that you are buying, e.g. how many apples etc.

Recognising numbers:

- Match the numeral to the set.
- Use a number fan and play show me the number.
- Play number games/ do number puzzles.
- Bingo - easy: cover the number that is called out



-more difficult: cover number that is 1 more/1 less

- Look for numbers in the environment, e.g. at the shops, house numbers, car registrations, signs.



GB61 SEP

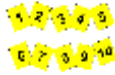


Ordering numbers:

- Use a number track- point to/put counters on the given number.



- Put number cards in order.
- Play number games/ do number puzzles.

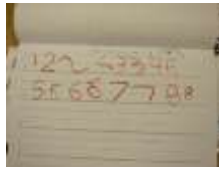


- ICT Games (www.ictgames.com) e.g: counting caterpillars



Writing numbers:

- Practise writing numbers in sand/paint/shaving foam/mud/with pens/chalk on blackboards etc



- Make numbers out of playdough/pipe cleaners etc



Simple calculations:

- When playing with your child, make up simple number stories using addition and subtraction.
For example: There were 3 cows in the field and 2 more cows came to join them. How many cows are there altogether?
There were 5 cakes on the plate. 3 were eaten-how many are left?
- Use practical resources where possible to help you practise counting and simple calculations. Anything you have at home will do, e.g: buttons, socks, toy animals, cakes, toy figures, food made from playdough, stones, shells, pencils, lego blocks etc.



General points:

- Make it real for the children e.g: Through role play or in real situations. Children learn much better if they can see the point.
- Make it fun- if children are engaged and having fun, they will be learning without knowing they are learning!
- Use physical objects whenever possible so that your child can touch/ feel/move the objects when counting.