

One more one less

Activities for one more, one less:

1: Sticky notes numbers

Write the numbers one to ten on sticky notes, stick them in a row, then ask your child to pick a number and quiz them on which numbers come before and after the one they have chosen.

2: Secret number

Think of a number, then ask your child to guess your secret number. Tell them that, for example, your secret number is "one more than 6" or "one less than eight". Ask your child to come up with their own secret number too and try to find out what it is. You could play this sitting on a bus or a train and look for numbers on the bus or in the carriage - a bit like I Spy!

Simple addition and subtraction

Remember that while you are talking and playing with your child you are always developing their language and building their real-life experiences. Talk about what you are doing. Use language such as "add", "adding", "add on", "subtract" and "take away", as this helps them to make the connection with home and school.

Activities for addition and subtraction:

1: Buttons and poppers

Help your little one button up their jacket and ask them how many buttons are done up. If they undo one, how many buttons are buttoned now? As well as maths skills, this game also helps to develop their fine motor skills!

2: Playing shops

Play at being a shopkeeper, have a "5 items only" sign and provide your little one with a basket. They have to pick some apples and some oranges and make sure that they only have five things in their basket.

Shapes

Shapes are everywhere and children enjoy learning about shapes.

Activities for shapes:

1: Shape hunt Look around the house/room for shapes that are like a circle, square, rectangle or triangle. You could play Air Shapes - draw the shape in the air and see if your child can guess what it is. An alternative could be to draw the shapes in the sand at the beach, or in the mud at the park.

2: Build a house

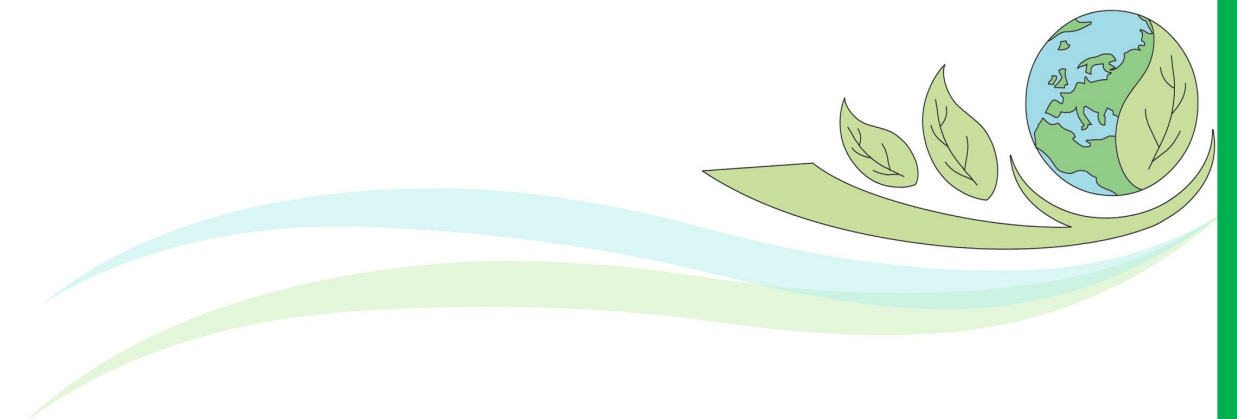
As your child grasps the basic shapes, introduce them to more complex ones such as 3D shapes and shape names. You could build a house with building blocks, or draw a picture while talking about the different shapes you would need to make the roof, the house, the windows, the chimney, and so on.

This information and videos can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/help-your-child-with-maths.

Dane Royd Junior & Infant School

Early Years Mathematics Booklet for Parents and Carers

An overview of maths and ideas on how you can support your child on their journey to becoming competent and confident mathematicians.



What is this booklet?

This booklet is aimed to provide parents with ideas to support their children with maths in the early years. Supporting your child with their mathematical skills will give them the opportunity to be confident individuals who aim for success. Help your child reach their potential by trying some of the activities suggested.

How can you help?

It doesn't matter if you feel you are not good at maths, there are things you can do with your child that will make a difference to their ability. It is very important that children have confidence in what they do, they need to feel confident in having a go. Praising your child for their effort will increase their confidence and inspire them to want to learn more. Remember to be positive and show that maths can be fun. Below are areas of mathematical skills your child will develop in foundation with suggested activities to help them develop.

Number recognition

Numbers are everywhere in the environment pointing them out is a great first step to developing number recognition.

Activities you can do:

1: Number spotting

This can be done anywhere! Talk about the numbers on buses, front doors, price tags or even on the back of footballers' shirts.

2: Numbers Hunt

Hide some cut-out numbers from 1-10 around the house and see if your child can find them - ask them to shout the number out loud when they find it.

3: Build towers with blocks

Building a tower of ten cups and counting them up as you build will help your child understand that numbers have a value.

Move on to challenge. Look at a number written down and ask what number it is.

Counting up and down

Counting is important for learning number names and ordering. Start with numbers 1-5 and progress when your child is ready.

Activities for counting up and down:

1: Songs and rhymes

Songs and rhymes are great for helping young children learn to count e.g: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive" (for counting up); and "There were 10 green bottles sitting on the wall" (for counting down).

2: Steps and stairs

Count together as you walk up and down stairs while you're out and about or when climbing the stairs to bed.

Ordering numbers

When your child is confident in counting and number recognition you can move on to ordering numbers.

Activities for ordering numbers:

1: Toy car park

Stick some labels on ten toy cars and number them 1-10. Draw ten parking spaces in a line on some paper/card and see if your child can park the cars in the right order.

2: Number fish

For this game, get your child to pretend to be a fisherman and try to catch the "number fish" in the correct order from the pretend lake - for this you can cut out paper fish and write a number from 1-10 on them.

1:1 correspondence

This is when you match an object to a number such as 'can you give me four cars'

Activities for matching:

1: Count out toys for a very simple game that helps with teaching children about 1 to 1 correspondence. Ask your child to give you a certain number of toys, for example "can you give me four marbles?"

2: Dominoes. Matching the dots on one domino to those on another domino is great for developing matching skills and really helps children to get the idea of what "four" looks like.

Grouping and sorting

This is where you put things in to sets.

Activities for grouping and sorting:

1: Blocks or bricks

Ask your child to sort these into groups of different colours or shapes.

2: Fruit bowl

You could ask your child to arrange all the apples from the fruit bowl into a group, then arrange all the oranges into a separate group - then ask how many there are in each group.

Challenge: ask your child which group has more or less.

Estimating

This is about developing the understanding of 'too little' or 'too much'.

Activities for estimating and quantity:

1: Guessing games

Ask your child if they can guess how many toys are in a bag, or biscuits are in a jar, then ask them to count them up to see whether they are right.