

# Primary 1 Daily Numeracy Activities



This is a guide to the kind of activities we do in school to develop early numeracy skills. In school we cover 6 areas of numeracy which we will explain here. At this stage it is best to use visual and concrete representations of numbers - so hands on activities using real objects from home and nature are ideal. Each child is at a different stage in their learning so may need more support or more challenge. For more specific advice please contact your child's teacher by email.

P1 [kevin.donnachie@brunstane.edin.sch.uk](mailto:kevin.donnachie@brunstane.edin.sch.uk)

P1/2 [chris.rosendale@brunstane.edin.sch.uk](mailto:chris.rosendale@brunstane.edin.sch.uk)

[emma.roche@brunstane.edin.sch.uk](mailto:emma.roche@brunstane.edin.sch.uk)

The following is a list of websites and games that you may find useful:

<https://mathsbot.com/#Manipulatives>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting>

[https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Cards\\_and\\_dominoes.swf](https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Cards_and_dominoes.swf)

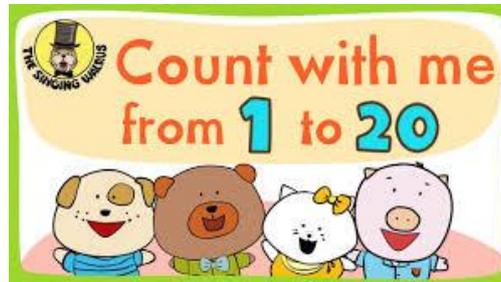
[https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Bingo\\_-\\_counting\\_v4.swf](https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Bingo_-_counting_v4.swf)

[https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Counting\\_on\\_in\\_ones.swf](https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Counting_on_in_ones.swf)

[https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Counting\\_stick.swf](https://garyhall.org.uk/gordons/swf/Counting_stick.swf)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-counting-songs/zn67kmn>

## 1. Saying forwards and backwards number sequences



Being able to count forwards and backwards, and say the number before and after a number, helps with addition and subtraction. When your child is confident counting within 20, move onto bigger numbers.

- ✓ Practise counting forwards and backwards starting and stopping at different numbers
- ✓ Say three numbers in a sequence - what comes next?
- ✓ Throw a ball back and forth with a partner as you count
- ✓ Count while you do keepie uppies with a ball/balloon
- ✓ Count while you are walking, jumping, hopping or skipping
- ✓ Do some baking and count out the spoonfuls as you add them
- ✓ Sing counting songs, search online - at school we like Jack Hartman, The Singing Walrus and Super Simple Songs

It is trickier to count backwards, and to count 'over a decade' eg 28, 29, 30, 31, so give extra support with this.

## 2. Recognising and sequencing numerals



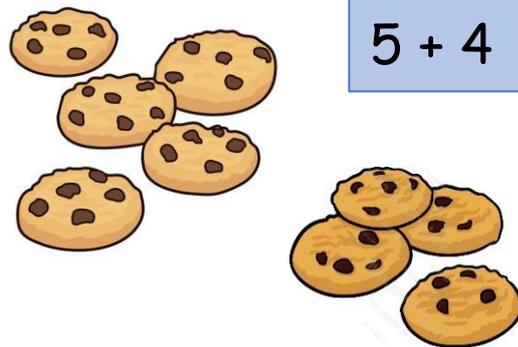
- ✓ Start with numbers to 10, then 20. Move onto numbers to 100 when your child is confident with teen numbers
- ✓ Look for numbers outside on buses or doors
- ✓ Make number cards to play games with. You could try: bingo, pairs, snap, tic tac toe
- ✓ Write numbers with chalk to play games outside
- ✓ Use cards to make a number line. Hide some numbers or muddle them up
- ✓ Make your own dot-to-dot pictures or find some online
- ✓ Make some number line art



### 3. Counting groups of objects and adding

- ✓ Start with counting single groups, then two groups together
- ✓ Move on to adding by 'counting on' when your child is confident adding two groups of physical objects together

Counting on means counting some more from a number (not counting from 1). So, if we are adding 5 biscuits and 4 biscuits we would start at 5 then say 6, 7, 8, 9. You can encourage this by hiding the first group of objects after you have counted them.



"5 ... 6, 7, 8, 9"

- ✓ Practice counting things around the house, find things to add together like pencils, cheerios, and toys
- ✓ Collect objects outside like pine cones, sticks or stones, make them into 2 groups and count how many altogether
- ✓ Play games with 2 dice. You could try: snakes and ladders, dice wars, roll and build
- ✓ Try replacing one dice with number cards, or make a number spinner, to encourage adding by 'counting on'. Start counting at the number on the card and add on the number of dots on the dice

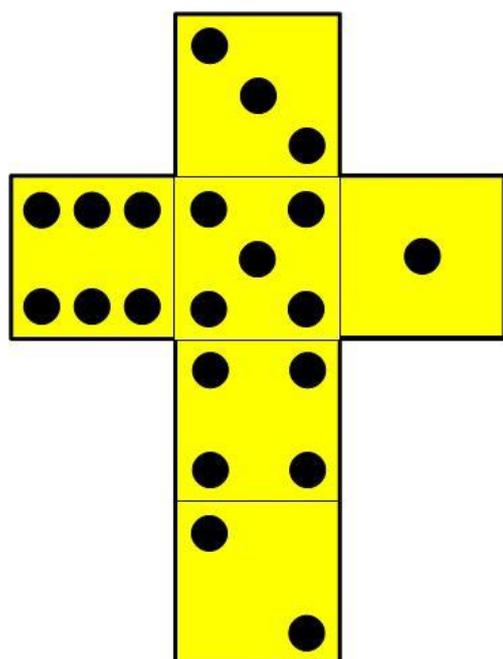
#### 4. Partitioning and subitizing

This is an important skill to develop - children learn to identify the number of objects in a group without counting them all from 1. For example, by recognising dice patterns. It helps us to quickly add and subtract.



- ✓ Pick a number of the day and see how many different ways you can make it - use objects and make them into different groups (eg 8 grapes could be split into 5 and 3, 4 and 4, 6 and 2)
- ✓ Use objects from the house or outside to make dice patterns
- ✓ Play games with dominoes and dice. You could try ordering them, sorting them into groups, playing a matching game or just playing a game of dominoes
- ✓ Make some dot cards and play card games. You could try: pairs, snap, a memory game, bingo

You can make your own dice from paper or card if you don't have any at home. Or find virtual dice online.



## 5. Finger patterns

Children need to see and feel numbers in different combinations  
- finger patterns are a great way to visualise number bonds and help to add and subtract.

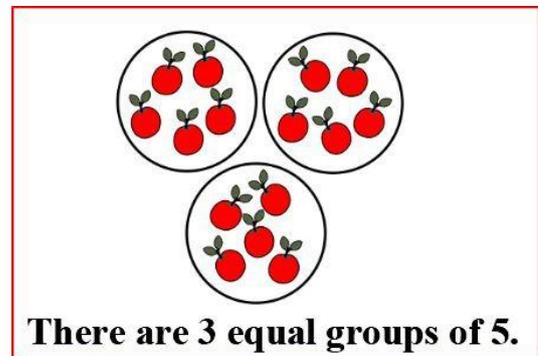
- ✓ Sing some finger songs like "Five Little Monkeys", "Caught a Fish Alive", and "Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer"
- ✓ Think of different ways to show numbers to 10 on your fingers
- ✓ Play a game of bunny ears showing different numbers each time
- ✓ Bang a drum or clap a number and ask your child to show you the number on their fingers
- ✓ Use fingers to practise showing doubles (1+1, 2+2, 3+3...)
- ✓ Move on to doubles + 1 (3+4, 4+5 ...)
- ✓ Play a game of chopsticks

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chopsticks-game>



## 6. Equal groups and sharing

This is the early stages of multiplication and division. Children make and describe equal groups and begin to count in steps of different numbers. Start with groups of 2, then move on to 3s, 4s and 5s.



- ✓ Compare groups of objects. Are they equal or not equal?
- ✓ Sort objects into different equal groups
- ✓ Use lego, socks, pencils, sweets to make and count equal groups
- ✓ Have a picnic or tea party: share out grapes or other snacks with your family or toys - make sure everyone gets the same amount!
- ✓ Draw pictures to show equal groups - flowers with 5 petals each, fish bowls with 4 fish in each, space rockets with 3 windows each

