

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum: Mathematics

Numbers

Singing number rhymes with your child

Why this is important:

This is a really important activity for pre school children as it supports the foundations of developing the idea of Numbers. By hearing number rhymes, children begin to develop an idea of numbers and number sequences.

Try the activity every day for about 10 minutes per session.

Before you start:

Some ideas of number rhymes & songs:

Five current Buns

5 Speckled Frogs

1,2,3,4,5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

Five Cheeky Monkeys

Five Little Ducks

There were Ten in the Bed

10 Fat Sausages

Ten Green Bottles

8-20m

- Develops an awareness of number names through their enjoyment of action rhymes and songs that relate to their experience of numbers.

Sing number songs with your child using your hands and finger puppets if you have them. Make finger puppets from old gloves by sticking eyes on them.

16-26m

- Beginning to organise & categorise objects, e.g. putting all the teddy bears together or teddies and cars into separate piles.

Collect props & toys to demonstrate the actions in the songs. Encourage your child to count items & props as you sing. Think how the props can be categorised into groups. For example by making 10 fish of varying sizes and colours from coloured paper, which ones are green or orange etc.

22-36m

- Knows that a group of things changes in quantity when something is added or taken away.

When singing number songs challenge your child to count how many fingers or props you are starting off with and then how many are left as the song progresses, such as “How many current buns are left over?”

30-50m

- Shows curiosity about numbers by offering comments or asking questions
- Shows an interest in representing numbers.

Through songs and rhymes ask your child to respond and answer questions or for them to offer their own thoughts and ideas. Ask them to sing the song on their own and for you to model thinking and working out answers.

40-60m

- Counts actions or objects which cannot be moved.

Introduce numerals and look at the numeral when singing how many are left. Challenge your child to select the numeral to match how many are left.

Early Learning Goal-Numbers

Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.