



Mental Agility Securing Skills in Early Level

Learning at Home Guide
Support your child in mental agility

About this booklet

This booklet is designed to help you to support your child in learning vital number skills.

Some children may find this trickier than others, while some may need to be challenged by using larger numbers.

In order to be secure at Early Level (by the end of P1 for most pupils or earlier for some) regular practice in mental agility is required.

Please see suggested activities and websites at the end of this booklet.

Mental Agility Skills

Numbers

- Recognise numbers to 30.
- Recognise numbers before/ after and between given number(s) up to 30.
- Begin to use words like bigger, smaller, more or less

Counting

- Count forwards to 30.
- Count backwards from to 20.
- Counting on in ones from a single digit number (eg starting at 3 then 4,5,6..)
- Count up to 20 objects (eg 5 plates, 7 coins)
- Count forwards in 2s up to 20
- Count forward in 5s and 10s, using visuals, up to 100

Shape

- Recognise 2D and 3D shapes and name correctly (eg square, circle, cube)

Sequencing and Ordering Numbers

- Sequence and order numbers to 20
- Recognise odd and even numbers to 20
- Name missing numbers of a number line up to 20
- Name the number that comes before/after a given number
- Correctly sequence the days of the week/ months of the year
- Use charts within the classroom to follow the daily plan
- Read whole hour times on a clock face
- Begin to predict the time an hour or two hours later

Number Structures and Place Value

- Recognise the number of objects without counting (eg dots on dominoes)
- Recognise patterns of numbers and how these are arranged (eg numbers on a die)

Addition and Subtraction

- Know the number partner to make 10
- Partition objects to make number stories to 10
- Count items in a group
- Count items in 2 groups to make a total amount
- Use doubles and near doubles when adding (eg $3+3$ and $3+4$)
- Recognise coins up to £1
- Lay out coins to make values up to 10p

Multiplication and Division

- Count objects into equal groups
- Practical activities to make 2 groups with the same number of objects in each (see fun activities section for ideas)

Numeracy and Maths Ideas to Support at Home

- Sing number songs and rhymes: 3 blind mice etc.
- Count to 10 forward and backwards. 20 to extend.
- Start counting at different numbers (4, 5, 6... 9, 10, 11...) to 10 to begin, then 20 once confident.
- Ask what number is before, after and between different numbers to begin with. (10 to begin, 20 once confident).
- Find numbers around the home and out and about. E.g. number plates, door numbers, road signs etc.
- Count out items to practise 1:1 correspondence e.g. 4 toys, 6 forks etc.
- Count the number of items.
- Sorting and ordering - toys = big to small, colour, shapes etc.
- Counting steps to different places e.g. how many steps from the front door to the kitchen etc.
- Play board games using dice, counting, dominos/snakes and ladders.
- Play card games e.g. snap, pairs, higher/lower.
- Practise writing numbers in different ways (see letter ideas)
- Jigsaws/puzzles.
- Use the language associated with shape, position and movement e.g. up, down, high, low, above, below, under, over.
- Use the language associated with size, measure and time e.g. more, less the same, lots, many, before, after, morning, night.
- Practise days of the week and months of the year - do they know their birthday.
- Look for different shapes around the house and out and about.

Shopping

- There are many opportunities for maths at the supermarket, here are just a few ideas.
- Let your child count out the items and put them into the trolley. e.g. Ask them to find five apples/six onions.
- Encourage your child to count the items in the basket. Can you go to the checkout for *less than* eight items or do we have *more than* that? Questions like this develop mathematical problems solving skills.

Songs and Rhymes

Ten Green Bottles

Ten green bottles hanging on the wall,

Ten green bottles hanging on the wall,
And if one green bottle should accidentally fall,
There'll be nine green bottles hanging on the wall.
(Continue singing until only one green bottle is left)
There'll be no green bottles hanging on the wall.

'Five Little Ducks'
Five Little ducks went swimming one day,
Over the hills and far away
Mother duck said,
"Quack, quack, quack quack"
But only four little ducks came back.
(Continue until one little duck)

Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer
Five little men in a flying saucer,
Flew around the world one day,
They looked left and right,
But they didn't like the sight
So one man flew away...WHOOSH.
Four little men in a flying saucer....
(continue singing until the last man has flown away)

Links to Songs used in class:

Useful websites

<https://learn.flipclacks.org/systematic-counting/>



<http://www.mathsisfun.com>



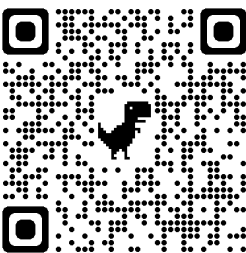
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting>



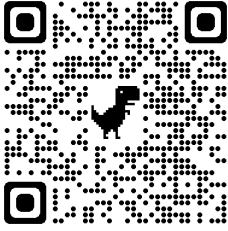
<https://nrich.maths.org/early-years>



<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>



<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-numeracy>



QR Codes

Number:

Teddy Bear Numbers



Caterpillar Ordering



Addition and Subtraction

Addition to 10



Robot Addition



Subtraction from 10



Mental Maths Train



Shape

Shape Patterns



Shape Monsters



Money

Toy Shop



Coins Game



Time

