

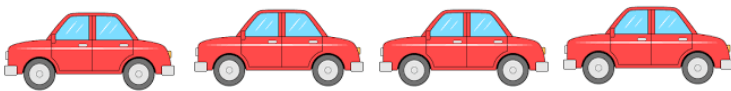
Maths in Reception



Maths in the early years: it is important that we spend a lot of time consolidating and teaching children to have a really good understanding of **number**. This guide will help you to understand how we teach maths and how you can support at home.

Counting principles

The one to one principle – means that children count every object just once and call out the number name as they do so (1 -2 -3)



It is important to start off counting REAL objects (apples/ buttons/ cars etc.) before moving to picture drawings. Start with the same colour and size, before adding slight changes (such as counting red **and** yellow bricks)

It is easier to count by lining up objects and touching each one as they count.

The stable order principle – means that children understand when counting that numbers have an order: 1 then 2 then 3 then 4....

Sing number rhymes out loud so that children get used to the 'order' of numbers. Such as '1 2 3 4 5 once I caught a fish alive'

The cardinal principle – means that the final number said is the total number of objects in that group.

When counting a small group of objects, ask 'how many?' If your child says the final number without having to recount, then they understand this principle.



The abstraction principle – children realise that anything can be counted – such as claps and jumps and that you don't need to count them by touching them.

3!



After spending a long time 'touch' counting, children are then ready to move on to counting things they can't always touch. Ask your child to count bangs on a drum, or claps, or clicks.

The order irrelevance principle – children begin to understand that no matter which way you count a group of objects, the number is always the same

This is a great website to use to help with counting

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblo>

[cks](#)

