



Early Numeracy Ideas

Through experiences at home with you, their first and most important teacher, and from learning opportunities at Nursery, your child will have started to develop their understanding of early Numeracy concepts. When they start Primary 1, they will continue to build on their knowledge and skills through a range of learning and teaching experiences. Every child learns in different ways and at a different pace. There is no expectation for them to be able to write their numbers yet; they will get plenty of practice forming their numbers at school! However, there are some important areas of Numeracy, which you could help your child with at home, that would get them off to a good start. By talking about and pointing out numbers in the environment, and using the simple games and activities included in our Early Numeracy Ideas sheets, you could help your child learn to:

- ✓ Count to 10
- ✓ Recognise the numbers from 0-10
- ✓ Accurately count a group of objects



The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.



This story follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food. If you don't have a copy of the book at home, you can watch the animated version of the story on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>. After reading or watching the story, you could ask your child to:

- Recite the number of foods the caterpillar eats in the order they appear in the story, e.g. 1 apple, 2 pears, 3 plums, etc.
- Point to and count the number of foods on each page of the story.
- Draw pictures to illustrate the story.
- Act out the story using props.

Counting Songs – Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive
But where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Look and you'll see them
Come out of the hive,
One, Two, Three, Four, Five.
Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzz



Use songs that have the numbers in order and support your child to match these with their fingers or other objects.



Early Numeracy Ideas

We're Going on a Number Hunt!

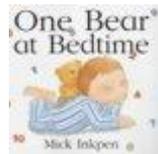
When you go out for a walk, look for numbers in the environment, e.g.

- in shops
- car registration plates
- buses
- house numbers
- on wheelie bins
- road signs



Have fun spotting as many numbers as you can!

One Bear at Bedtime by Mick Inkpen.



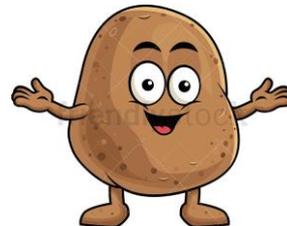
Introduces the numbers one through to ten as a little boy describes all the animals he needs to help him get ready for bed. If you don't have a copy of the book at home, you can watch a re-telling of the story on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6cCJl7FLpk>. After reading or watching the story, you could ask your child to:

- Count the number of animals that are on each page in order from 1-10.
- Point to the number on each page and tell you what number it is.
- Draw pictures to illustrate the number of each animal, e.g. 1 bear, 2 pigs, etc.
- Act out the story using props.

1 potato, 2 potato, 3 potato, 4...

One potato, two potato
Three potato, four
Five potato, six potato
Seven potato, more
Eight potato, nine potato
Count them up to ten
Let's put our potatoes back
And count them up again



Make a fist with your hands, stack them on top of each other each time you add another potato.

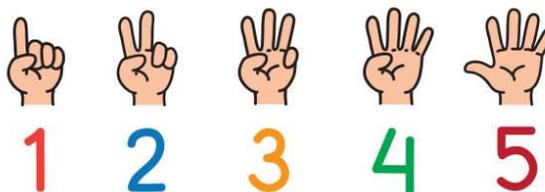


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Counting Ideas (Visit the Highland Numeracy Project blog for more ideas)

Children love to count. You can do this informally by asking your child to collect a certain number of objects for you, e.g. please pass me 3 grapes, or by counting as you walk up or down stairs! Use whatever items you can find at home and encourage your child to match objects to numerals, e.g. place 2 cars on a piece of paper with a number 2 written on it. It is really important to develop one to one correspondence – this is a skill that involves the child counting each object in a set **once**, and only **once** with **one** touch per object. Using a variety of resources will help to give lots of valuable ‘hands on experiences’. Some examples are:

- Cars
- Cuddly toys
- Blocks
- Lego bricks
- Fingers
- Socks
- Pegs
- Cups
- Coins
- Fruit (and you could eat it once you're done!)



Six Dinner Sid by Inga Moore.



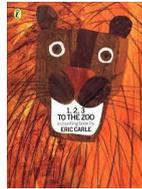
A cat successfully manages to be the pet of six different owners within a street, and so eats six dinners each night. If you don't have a copy of the book at home, you can watch a re-telling of the story on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JauYJuJ5X7M>. After reading or watching the story, you could ask your child to:

- Tell you which house numbers in Aristotle Street Sid lived in.
- Point to each house number in the book and tell you what number it is.
- Tell you which 6 dinners Sid ate at each house.
- Show you the 6 places Sid liked to be scratched.
- Tell you the 6 beds Sid slept in.
- Draw any 6 things, e.g. 6 footballs, 6 apples, 6 rainbows, 6 stars, etc.



Early Numeracy Ideas

1, 2, 3 to the Zoo by Eric Carle



This story follows one tiny mouse's train ride to the zoo. As the journey continues, a new car is added with one more animal on each car. If you don't have a copy of the book at home, you can watch a re-telling of the story on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXCc4voREDY>. After reading or watching the story, you could ask your child to:

- Act out the movement or sound of each animal as many times as the number on the page. For example, stomp your feet or trumpet your trunk once like an elephant, prowl or roar 4 times like the lions. Let your child decide on the movement and join in on the fun!
- Play a guessing game with your child. You can say something like, "I see a group of 3 animals! What are they?" 3 giraffes! Or "How many hippos are there? How many bears are there?"

One Man Went to Mow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q U9vwnGEkDU>

One man went to mow,
went to mow a meadow,
one man and his dog,
went to mow a meadow.

Two men went to mow,
went to mow a meadow,
two men,
one man and his dog,
went to mow a meadow.

Three men went to mow,
went to mow a meadow,
three men, two men,
one man and his dog,
went to mow a meadow

Four men...

Five men...



Counting with Lego/Duplo



Lego and Duplo blocks lend themselves fantastically to a huge range of mathematical concepts, including counting. To develop one to one correspondence, your child could build a tower using 1-10 bricks (or beyond if they are confident). You could match the tower to a numeral written on a piece of paper, e.g. place a tower made of 5 blocks on the number 5.

If you have some spare Lego/Duplo bricks at home, you could use a marker pen to write numbers 1-10 on one side and draw the corresponding number of dots on the other side. Ask your child to build the tower in order from 1-10, counting the dots to check it is correct.