In Early Level numeracy the main focus is on the numbers 0 - 10 - not only being able to 'say' these, but also being able to form the digits and display an understanding of what numbers actually mean. The following will outline some of the most important aspects of this phase of learning:

Numbers can provide a lot of entertainment for small children. They first become aware of the sounds of numbers, then they begin to understand what they mean. Finally they need to recognise them when they are written down.

There are four main skills that children need to develop before they can count.

1. Children must recognise the <u>sounds</u> of numbers. For example, they can say numbers (although not necessary in order).

2. Understanding of <u>one-to-one correspondence.</u> This is when children begin to understand what numbers actually mean. They can count a set of objects, pointing to each one in turn as they count.

3. Children must then begin to realise that numbers can be presented in a number of ways. We may start learning to count using objects or pictures. Then the formation of the numbers would be taught, as your child recognises the number symbols. Finally, they must learn that numbers can be presented in word format too.

The Number Formation Guide on the previous page will be helpful when your child has reached number 3 detailed above.

Below are some websites which can be accessed to further develop your child's numeracy skills. This list is by no means exhaustive and there are many more which are just as valuable to be explored.

www.doorwayonline.org.uk

www.ictgames.com

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/firstlevel/mathematics/

www.maths-games.org

www.mad4maths.com/parents

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondlevel/

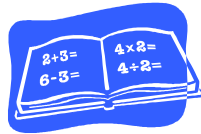www.multiplication.com

Hardgate Primary School

Handy Hints
for
Numeracy

A guide to helping your child in
Home Learning tasks

Early Level

Welcome to your 'Handy Hints' guide to Numeracy at Curriculum for Excellence Early Level. This booklet has been designed to aid you in helping your child develop good numeracy skills at home. It covers the basic aspects of Numeracy, expected to be covered in the early years of Primary School. We hope it is helpful, but should you have any other questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school, or your child's class teacher.

There is a focus on developing **Mental Maths** skills during Early Level. This can be done by highlighting and discussing instances of Maths in our everyday lives. If you talk about simple calculations and maths language as you do things;

e.g. when shopping ("How many things am I buying?"), cooking ("Count out ? Carrots for me…"), filling a bath with water ("Tell me when the bath is half-full…"), driving ("How many blue cars can you count?"), out walking ("Let's walk forward for 3 steps, then go backwards for 1!"), and so on, you will be helping your child enormously…… You probably already do this without even realising it!

Even if Maths and Numeracy weren't your own favourite subjects at school, try to find new ways to enjoy the subject with your child and make it as much fun as possible - relating number skills to every-day examples helps to "bring it to life", and there are a wealth of activities (such as board games, puzzles, and so on) and games (particularly interactive activities online) which will help you to work together and aid your child in their learning!

Number Formation Guide

The importance of forming the numbers correctly can not be stressed enough. Encourage your child to form numbers in the standard way. Bad habits are difficult to break, so following our simple guide can help to prevent problems at a later stage

Spots indicate the starting position of the pencil. The pencil should remain on the paper, following the arrows. For the numbers four and five, the pencil must be raised before completing the second part of each number.
Crosses indicate the second starting positions.