

Developing an understanding of number

I have explored numbers, understanding that they represent quantities, and I can use them to count, create sequences and describe order – MNU 0-02a Curriculum for Excellence – Early Level Number Processes

During their time at nursery children often develop an awareness of numbers. In Primary 1, children will develop their understanding of how to form numbers correctly, as well as developing a deeper understanding of quantities, counting skills and number recognition.

Number Formation

Your child will learn the correct formation of numbers initially by learning number rhymes.

Start at the top and down we run, that's the way we make a 1.

These rhymes will provide children with visual and oral clues about how to form numbers correctly.

You could help by asking your child to show you how to write a given number neatly and say the number rhyme with them as they write

Number Recognition

Numbers are everywhere! Encourage your child to spot numbers in different places.

- Look at numbers on buses, cars, shop price tags, television etc.
- Practise recognising number quantities by using a dice in games
- Write numbers in sand, using playdoh, with paint, using shaving foam, slime etc.
- Play number games e.g. spot 3 blue cars
- Dot to dot activities

Quantities of Numbers

In Primary One we aim to develop a secure understanding of the quantities of numbers. You could help your child by counting out a set number of sweets or asking your child to find a set number of toys.

Try to encourage your child to match a set number of items to the number itself e.g. match 4 objects beside the written number 4

Counting Skills

Here are a few ways you could help your child develop their counting skills.

- Counting forward and back to 10 then extend to 20
- Count forwards and backwards starting and stopping at different numbers e.g count forwards from 5 and stop at 9. Count backwards from 6 and stop at 2 etc.
- Count a given number of objects – How many crayons do I have?
- Singing counting songs e.g. 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive