

# Stepps Primary School



## Early Level

### Developing your Child's Mental Agility in Numeracy

### An information leaflet for parents

We have been working really hard to improve the mental agility of our pupils. Please find below some activities that you can do at home to help your child. Thank you for your support.

#### Saying Number Word Sequence Forwards to 30 and Backwards from 20

*Give examples such as:*

- "Count forwards from 0"
- "Count forwards from 5"
- "Count forwards from 8"
- "Count forwards from 12 to 18"
- "Count forwards from 15 to 21"
- "Count forwards from 23 to 30"
  
- "Count backwards from 5"
- "Count backwards from 9"
- "Count backwards from 13"
- "Count backwards from 17 to 11"
- "Count backwards from 20 to 15"
- "Count backwards from 19 to 9"

#### Number Tennis

Take alternate turns at saying numbers forwards and backwards, within 20 and then 30.

#### Identifying Numerals

- Identify and talk about numerals in real life contexts e.g. in the supermarket, in the bank, on coins, on packaging, in shops etc.
- Use flashcards to flash a numeral and ask your child to identify it.

#### Number Word Before/Number Word After

Ask your child to identify the number before

(up to 20) and after (up to 30) or in between e.g. before 18, after 12, in between 15 and 16.

#### Ordering Numerals

Cut out the numerals from 0-10. Mix them up. Take *a few numerals* and ask your child to order them from smallest to largest or vice versa. Extend to include numerals to 20 and then to 30 when your child is ready for this.

#### Sequencing Numerals

- Ask your child to put all 10 numerals from 1-10 in the correct sequence.
- Extend to include the numerals from 1-20 and then 1-30 when your child is ready for this.

#### Locating Numerals

Ask your child to locate a specific number on a hundred square e.g. 5, 12, 21, 29 e.t.c.

#### Doubles

Ask your child to quickly recall the double of numbers 1-5. They can show the double using their fingers e.g. 2 on each hand, 3 on each hand etc

#### Number Lines

Draw a line on a piece of paper. Mark number 0 at one end and number 10 at the other. Ask your child to show you where a particular number should be placed on the line e.g. "Where should number 5 be? Number 8? Number 3?" Repeat with a 0-20, 0-30 number line.

### Play "Guess the Number"

Give your child clues and help them to guess the number e.g. "I am the number before 5", "I am the number between 12 and 14", "I am 2 more than 7" etc.

### Finger Flash

Ask your child to quickly show you a number of fingers. e.g. "Show me 4 on your fingers", "Show me 4 a different way." "Show me 8 on your fingers." "Show me 8 a different way."

### Bunny Ears and Bunny Tails

Repeat the above task but hold your hands above your head to show your fingers (Bunny Ears) or behind your back (Bunny Tails).

### Number Stories to 10

Ask your child to make the number stories to 10. Your child may use fingers, coins, counters or any small items and could record the number sentences, as below, on paper.

0+10=10  
1+9=10  
2+8=10  
3+7=10  
4+6=10  
5+5=10  
6+4=10  
7+3=10  
8+2=10  
9+1=10  
10+0=10



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### Play "I Say, You Say"

You say a number and your child tells you what number should be added to it to make a total of 10 e.g. Parent: "I say 7" Child: "I say 3"  
Parent: "I say 8" Child: "I say 2"

Repeat for numbers to 20 when your child is having consistent success in numbers to 10

### Counting Items

- Place a small number (less than 10) of counters, coins, pasta shapes or other small items on the table, ensuring that the items are all the same. Ask your child how many they can see and then cover them up.

Place some more items (no more than 5) on the table beside them. Ask your child "How many do you have altogether?" Encourage your child to keep the first number in their head and then **count on** to find the total e.g. For  $5 + 4 =$  they should keep 5 in their head and count on 4 more to get the answer, 9.

- Place a counter on a hundred square. Ask your child what would be the answer if they added 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 more. Let them move the counter to find their answer.
- Play "Hide and Add" You need 2 dice and a plastic cup/bowl. Take turns to roll both dice and quickly cover one with the cup/bowl. The challenge for your child is to give the total number of dots by adding the two dice patterns together. They can remove the

cup/bowl to count/check their answer. Encourage them to then record this on paper as a written sum e.g.  $3 + 5 = 8$

### Useful Apps

- Monkey Math
- Maths Skills Builder Primary
- Count Battle
- Motion Math: Hungry Guppy Edu by Motion Math
- Math Kid
- Quick Maths Jr
- Feed a Frog
- Math Train Free - Addition Subtraction for kids
- Math Buddy Learning Games by Recurvo Learning & Educational Apps
- Maths Balance: Games for Kids

### Useful Websites

- Education City - (Your child has a log in for this)
- Skoolbo
- Sumdog
- Doodlemaths
- Top Marks
- BBC Bitesize

