

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with information about SEAL maths and to allow you to support your child at home with this.

SEAL stands for **S**tages of **E**arly **A**rithmetical **L**earning.

Research in the 1990s showed there are significant differences in the numerical knowledge of children when they begin school.

These differences in number knowledge increase as children progress through schooling.

SEAL is an approach that we can use to understand the development of children's numerical knowledge and is good introduction to this pedagogy.

SEAL in the classroom

By using SEAL we can see what strategies children use for dealing with number and that allows us to build on those skills.

For example, the child who has no means of working out $9 + 3$ other than counting out nine counters, then counting out three counters and then counting all of the counters from 1 to 12, is using a far less sophisticated strategy than a child who can say $9 + 3$ is the same as $10 + 2$ so I know that the answer is 12.

Finding out what strategies children find useful and providing them with new strategies ensures that their approach to mathematics is based on understanding rather than 'drilled in processes' or 'tricks'.

Children will mostly work in small groups and will work together to solve problems, which will help them, devise their own strategies for learning.

At Home

- Play games with a dice pattern (e.g. snakes and ladders) or dominoes
- Show numbers with fingers, e.g. how many biscuits do you want? Can you show me with 2 hands?
- Counting items
- Counting forwards and backwards, e.g. how many steps? or counting down sleeps to Christmas
- Counting from numbers other than 1
- Say the number before/after e.g. today is the 11th, what will it be tomorrow? What was it yesterday



SEAL maths

A Guide for Parents

Stage 1-3