

Developing early number skills

It's never too early to explore counting and number skills with your child. Talking about numbers and counting early will show your child that numbers are part of everyday life.

Here are 5 top tips for bringing numbers into everyday life at home!

1. Count small objects together and make this fun – count the number of carrots on their plate, the stairs as you climb, the lego pieces they are building with, the fruit in the fruit bowl... Count one object at a time. You can ask questions like 'how many apples are there in the bowl?' Keep this fun and in short bursts.

2. Sing counting songs together! Songs like 10 green bottles, 10 in a bed, 5 little speckled frogs, 5 little monkeys. Some of these songs get your child used to counting backwards.

3. Draw, write and build numbers together – use playdough to make the numbers, take chalk outside and write the numbers on the ground, use a paintbrush dipped in water to write numbers on a wall, play with magnetic numbers...

4. Point out numbers when you're out and about. Learning to recognise the shape of numbers is as helpful as counting. Point out house numbers, the numbers on buses or train platforms. This will show your child numbers are everywhere!

5. Play board games together. Board games are a really useful way of teaching your child lots of important skills, such as turn taking. Many board games can help with counting, especially if they use dice. Snakes and ladders is a fun game to play and exposes your child to lots of number shapes!

Have fun!

