



Early Years Calculation Guide



COUNTING

Before counting, children **MUST** have a good understanding of number. At this early stage, your child needs lots of practise in counting, up and back in ones.



This can be done in lots of ways:

- In the supermarket - counting items as they are put into the trolley
- At meal times, counting amount of chips/ potatoes/ foods on their plate
- Counting socks or items of clothing
- Using fingers to count objects they see around them, eg. Cars, dogs at the park
- Talking about more/ less when counting

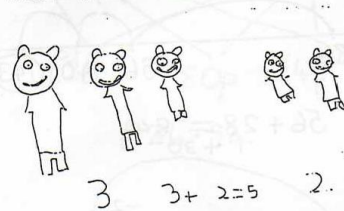


ADDITION

In Early Years, lots of games, role play, songs and counting on from numbers are used. Addition is to combine two or three groups of objects and count on. Remember that add means more in quantity

Groups are used in practical examples as the first step.

Jane had 3 bears. She was given 2 more.
How many does she have now?



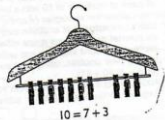
Your child does not need to record in written number sentences at first, it is developed through questioning. You can show them how it is written to prepare them, and start to write together.

I have 4 red buttons and 2 yellow buttons. So that is 6 buttons altogether. Can you draw that for me?



6 is 5 and 1 more
 $6 = 5 + 1$

Teacher writes number sentence to match the activities.

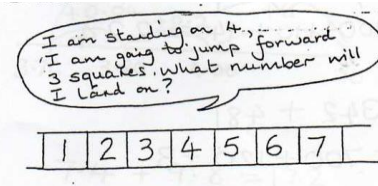


ADDITION continued...

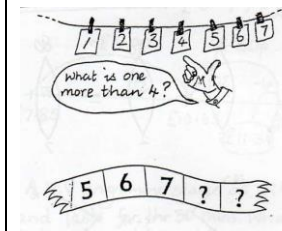
Throughout Early Years and Year 1, lots of games, role play, songs and counting on from numbers are used. Number lines are introduced, but later in the Reception year, when children are very confident.

Practical number lines

Children experience a variety of number lines and use them to support calculations. Help your child by demonstrating the use of the number line and by talking about the order of the numbers using the words more and less.



Also, to use counting along a number line of labelled objects/ people as well as numerals



"Show me" using objects within your house to make it real!

SUBTRACTION

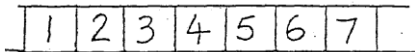
At first, children explore practically and become familiar with the vocabulary. They develop ways of showing their thinking using pictures, and then are introduced to the number line and number tracks.

Practical exploration

Number sentences are said and written to match activities. Practical activities are used with counters and real life objects. Number rhymes and stories are VERY important.



Children develop vocabulary such as: one less, through counting back and are introduced to the concept that subtraction means less in quantity



Mental and written jottings

An adult begins to write number sentences to match activities
Eg. $6 - 2 = 4$

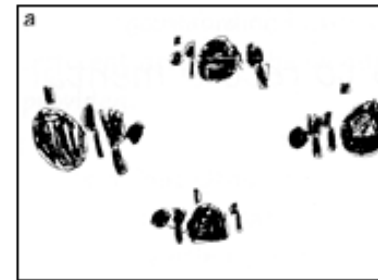
This is done in both written form, and through practical activities, using counters and real life objects. Number rhymes and stories are an important feature at this stage.

Six teddies are on the table. 2 go into the house. How many teddies are left outside?



Counting aloud in steps and practically moving

Throughout Early Years, children will experience equal groups of objects and will begin to count in 2s and 10s. They will work on practical problem solving activities involving equal sets or groups. Eg. How many socks... or how many forks...



Sharing and grouping

In lots of practical and every day situations, children are introduced to the idea that division means sharing equally.

Eg. Giving each person a piece of fruit at break time

Eg. Sharing out objects until none are left

'Sharing' is taught in a play based way, and in practical activities and stories, with vocabulary introduced.

During Reception - Year 1, children will understand equal groups and share items out in play and problem solving. They will begin to count in 2s, and 10s.



The methods included in this booklet are taken from Red Lane Calculation Procedure.

Staff use these as guidance, so you will be supporting your child in the same ways.

All children learn at different paces. Some will be using strategies from lower in school, and others will progress to the next ones. This booklet is provided as a guide only. If you have any questions, please come and see your class teacher. They will be happy to discuss this with you.