

## ESTIMATING NUMBERS

It is important that children get a "feel" for number and quantities.

- ◆ Show your child 5 spoons for a few seconds. Then cover the spoons and ask 'were there 5 spoons or 9 spoons?'
- ◆ Show your child different objects then hide them and guess how many there were.
- ◆ Guess how many clothes pegs you could lift in your hand.
- ◆ Guess how many pieces of fruit in a fruit bowl. After guessing, get your child to count to find out how many objects there are

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## MENTAL MATHS STRATEGIES WE USE

- ◆ Counting on in ones



### QUICK RECALL

During Primary 1 we work towards the children being able to use their knowledge of numbers to 10 to answer questions quickly.

For example:

- ◆ Number before, after, between
- ◆ Add 0 or 1 to a given number
- ◆ One more within 10

## HELP YOUR CHILD WITH MENTAL MATHS

### Foundation Stage

### Primary 1

By the end of Primary 1 children will have developed an understanding of number to 10.

They will also have engaged in counting activities to 10.

They will have started to add within 10.

They will work with 1p coins.

## USEFUL LANGUAGE

number

digit

one, two, three, ...ten

order

first/ next

first, second, third...fifth, last

forwards / backwards

before / after / next

next to / between / beside

same / different

same number as / as many as

bigger number/smaller number

1 more than / 1 less than

count,

count on

count up to

count on to / from

count back to / from

count in ones

set / group

compare / more / less

how many?

add / and / plus / more

total / altogether / makes / equals

partition / split

guess

estimate

## COUNTING ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Practise chanting the number names. Encourage your child to join in with you. When they are confident, try starting from different numbers e.g. 4, 5, 6... also try counting backwards.
- ◆ Sing number rhymes together (see homework packs)
- ◆ Give your child the opportunity to count objects (coins, clothes pegs, lego bricks, cutlery etc.) Encourage them to move each object as they count them.
- ◆ Count things you cannot touch - jumps, claps, fruit in a bag, people in a queue.
- ◆ Play games that involve counting: e.g. snakes and ladders, dice games.
- ◆ Look for numbers in the environment: e.g. car number plates, sign posts, door numbers, prices in a supermarket.
- ◆ Make mistakes when chanting, counting or ordering numbers. Can your child spot what you have done wrong?
- ◆ Choose a number of the week: e.g. 5. Practise counting in 5's, up to 5, on from 5, collect groups of 5 items.

## OTHER IDEAS



- ◆ Throw 2 dice and find the total. Who got the highest/lowest score?
- ◆ Visit local library and choose books which have numbers in the stories:
  - ◆ Goldilocks and the three Bears
  - ◆ Snow White and the seven Dwarfs
  - ◆ Six Dinner Sid
- ◆ Use dominoes to match numbers and find totals: e.g. can you find 2 dominoes that have 8 spots
- ◆ Make Bingo games. Call out *4 and 1 more make?* Your child covers 5