

Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Early Mathematics Overview

While a large part of maths is about numbers, it also encompasses many other areas such as solving problems, measuring, handling data and shape and space.

In Reception class this is learnt through lots of practical activities using concrete resources.



Counting

Counting is not just about saying number names out loud. Children need to have a secure understanding of the relationship between the numeral, the number name and the amount it represents.

You can support this learning at home by:

- Count pennies, buttons, pasta, trees, cars, building bricks, sweets, apples - encourage them to count things wherever they are.
- Give them mini-tasks at the supermarket e.g. put 6 carrots in a bag; 3 tins of beans, etc.
- Asking your child to 'give me three lego bricks' from the box- this encourages your child to count out from a larger set.
- Count things that can't be moved such as claps or spots on a dice.
- Play 'snap' or 'pairs' to match the numeral with the quantity.
- Spot numerals when out and about on doors, buses, price tags, birthday cards etc.
- Ask your child to tell you what is one more or one less than a given number.
- Sing lots of number songs and rhymes.

Remember to:-

1. Point to each object as you count it.
2. If an object can be moved, model how to move them into a line as you count.
3. Talk about numbers in context such as, "there are five buttons on your coat, but only four on mine. You've got more than me."

Calculations

Addition

1. counting sets of objects and realising that the last number said is the total.
2. combining two sets of objects into one group and finding out how many there are all together.
3. recording the calculation as a jotting e.g. drawing three apples and 2 bananas and then counting them to find the total.
4. understanding and using a simple number sentence e.g. $3 + 2 = 5$
5. counting on from the largest number and calculating mentally.

Subtraction

1. have a group of objects and practically take some away.
2. draw a jotting of an amount then cross some out to find out how many are left.
3. counting back along a number line.
4. understanding and using a simple number sentence e.g. $7 - 2 = 5$

Multiplication and Division

1. counting practically in repeated patterns of objects.
2. putting objects into groups.
3. counting arrays of objects such as ice cube trays, egg boxes and baking trays.
4. sharing objects into equal groups.

Shape, Space and Measure

- Go on a shape hunt and look for shapes around your home and outside e.g. windows, road signs...
- Set up a shop and use real money to purchase items to encourage your child to count pennies or even begin to recognise different coins.
- Get baking! It is a great way to practise measuring, estimating and timing.
- Compare sizes of objects. Ask your child, 'Which is the tallest?'

Useful Websites

Numberblocks- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

ICT games- <http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/>

Please remember that we are always here to answer any questions.

No question is too silly! Our job is to support you and your child 😊