

How We Learn Maths in Reception - A Guide for Parents

Mastering Number

Maths is practical, playful and full of talk. Children learn by moving objects, spotting patterns and explaining their ideas. We focus on deep understanding rather than worksheets. We teach short daily sessions from the national *Mastering Number* programme. These build strong number sense with numbers to 10. The aim is understanding, not speed.

Key Concepts We Teach

- **Subitising** — recognising small quantities without counting.
- **Composition of number** — knowing numbers can be made in different ways ($5 = 3+2$ or $4+1$).
- **Counting principles** — saying numbers in order, matching each object to one number word, and knowing the last number tells “how many”.
- **Comparison** — deciding which group has more, fewer or the same.

Why Number Sense Matters

- Strong early number sense makes later maths much easier. It supports number bonds, addition, subtraction and mental strategies in Year 1 and beyond

What Sessions Look Like

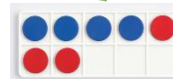
- **Quick images** shown briefly to encourage children to describe what they saw.
- **Representations** to explore numbers visually.
- **Talk tasks** where children explain their thinking.
- **Numberblocks** key concepts supported by short clips.



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What You Won't See

You won't see lots of worksheets or formal sums. We build understanding first so written methods make sense later.

How You Can Help at Home

 Everyday moments are perfect for maths:

- Count steps, toys or snacks.
- Compare amounts: “Who has more?” “Are they the same?”
- Notice numbers on doors, buses and signs.
- Encourage finger use — fingers are an excellent maths tool.

Simple Home Activities

- Dice games, Dominoes, Lego building, Snack maths (sharing, grouping, making 5)

Useful Vocabulary

Using the same words at home helps children make connections: **altogether, part, whole, more, fewer, equal.**

Looking Ahead

By the end of Reception, children with strong number sense are ready for number bonds, addition, subtraction and early mental strategies in Year 1. Our aim is for every child to feel confident, curious and positive about maths

Websites

- ICT Maths Games: <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/index.html>
- Number Talk Images: <https://ntimages.weebly.com/photos.html>
- Numberblocks: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>
- Topmarks Maths Games (choose EYFS or Y1):
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16&AgeGroup=1>
- NRICH maths activities: <https://nrich.maths.org/early-years-foundation-stage-activities-0>
- Online dice roll: <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/chance-games/roll-a-dice/>

Songs

- Counting Back From 20: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srPktd4k_O8
- Counting up to 100: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TgLf3PMOc>
- Shape Song: [Learning Simple Shapes | 2D Shapes Practice | Scratch Garden](#)
- Counting up in 2s: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=GvTcpfSnOMQ&t=2s>