



# Cove Infant School Guide to Maths



A Help Guide for Parents

## Number Recognition

Look for numbers everywhere, whether you are at home or out and about! Teen numbers are very tricky to recognise and understand as they don't follow the typical 'counting pattern'.

- Look at page numbers as you read books.
- Look for numbers on lampposts.
- Talk about the numbers on houses whilst you are out walking.
- Place numbers on toys that your child enjoys playing with. Play 'Find a number'.
- Draw numbers on the ground with chalk or in the mud.
- Go on a number hunt around the house.
- Make numbers on a remote control.
- Squirt numbers with water in the garden - use water balloons, water pistols or spray bottles.
- Place numbers in order. These could be consecutive numbers or random numbers.

## Counting

Counting is very important as it is the basis for all number work. Learning to count properly needs plenty of practise.

### Rote Counting

This is where children learn to recite numbers.

- Count forwards and backwards.
- Start from different numbers
- Sing number songs and rhymes

### Counting Objects - Count everything!!!!

Children need to learn that we count one number for each object, without missing any out or counting any more than once.

- Place objects in a line
- Encourage your child to touch each object and say the corresponding number.

Then children need to count out a given number of objects from a larger group.

- Teach them to place the objects in a line as they count.
- Encourage them to say a number as they place it in the line.
- Stop at the given number.
- Remind them to recount the objects to check that they are right.

Once children can do this, work on children counting on to make the amount. Eg, if they already have 7 and they now need 9, they need to add 2 more and count on from 7.

## Calculation

Children need to develop skills in addition. Their addition skills will progress throughout the year.

- Use objects and ask your child 'How many altogether?' Children need to count all the objects.
- Count on from the first number.
- Count on from the larger number.

Children need to develop skills in subtraction. Their subtraction skills will progress throughout the year.

- Use objects and ask your child to get 1 less or 2 less. Ask 'How many are left?'
- Ask your child to take away objects or subtract objects from a set. Then say how many are left.
- Use a number track to count backwards.
- Count backwards from a number to take away.

We also work on practical problems involving addition and subtraction. This involves the children thinking about how they are going to find the answer.

## More and Less

- Which set of objects has less/ fewer objects?
- Tell me a number that's more than 5 or less than 9.
- Use objects to get 1 more or 1 less.
- Say one more or one less.

### 1 more/less game

- For this game you need a dice, a coin and some building blocks or Lego bricks.
- Take turns to roll the dice.
- Build a tower with that number of blocks or bricks.
- Then toss the coin. Heads means take one brick off. Tails means add one on.
- If you can guess how many bricks there will be after this, you keep them!
- The first to collect 20 bricks or more wins!

## Sorting

- Sort socks after they have been washed. Talk about why they belong as a pair.
- Sort a variety of objects by colour, or category eg fruits and vegetables. Talk about why items belong in a set or don't belong.
- Odd one out - give children a range of objects. Can they select the odd one out and explain why it doesn't belong.

## Mathematical Language

Try to use mathematical language with children and encourage them to use it too. It is important for children to understand the language and be able to use it themselves.

### Numbers

More, less, greater, fewer, larger, smaller, after, before.

### Calculation

Add/plus, take away/subtract, equals/makes/is the same as

### Making comparisons

Taller, shorter, longer, heavier, lighter, full, empty, half full.

### Positional language

Between, beside, next to, behind, in front, above, below

### Time

Yesterday, today, tomorrow, next, after, before.