

Nursery Numeracy Activities

Below I have listed some of the games we play with the children during our focused maths circle time. Have a go, have some fun with it and see how you get on. They shouldn't take longer than 10/15 minutes each and aim for one a day.

Number bubble game

Draw lots of chalk circles on the ground outside, with a number inside each (1 to 5 or 1 to 10). Call out a number and the child has to find a bubble with that number and stand in it. Make it more fun by blowing bubbles over the children in between each round.

Number hunt

Take children out for a walk around the house, garden or street hunting for numbers along the way. There should be plenty of opportunities for number spotting, for example on front doors, gates, buses, cars, posters etc. Call them out when they see them.

Giant dot-to-dot

Make your own giant dot-to-dot by chalking numbers on the ground that the children have to connect in the right order to make a shape or picture. For younger children stick to simple shapes using fewer numbers; for older children you can make it a bit more difficult.

Nature count

Collect some conkers/pebbles/leaves. Back at home, draw the numbers 1 to 10 on the ground in a row with chalk and line up the right number of items underneath each one.

Dice tally

Take a sheet of card and make a grid of six squares, labelling them 1 to 6 using both numerals and words. Roll a die and keep a tally in the squares of how many times each number comes up. You could turn it into more of a game by having a grid each and adding a competitive element.

Number biscuits

Make some biscuits with the children and then use squeezezy icing to stick the right number of decorations onto each biscuit (e.g. eight raisins, three raspberries etc).

Beanbag toss

Use numbered target areas (0-6 or 0-10) and the children have to try and land the right number of beanbags/cushions/teddies in each numbered segment.

Number crafts

There are lots of ways in which you can incorporate number recognition into craft activities. One idea is to draw some outlines of ladybirds on a piece of paper, then number them and get the children to add the right number of spots to each. A couple of variations on this include drawing birds and sticking on tail feathers, or drawing monsters and sticking on googly eyes.