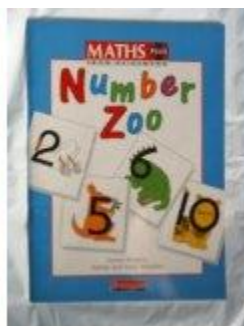
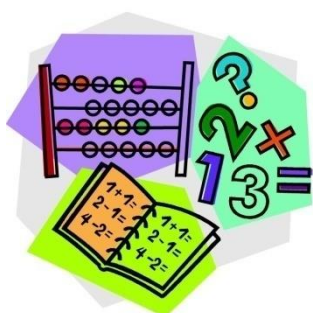


# Welcome to David Livingstone Memorial Primary School



How to help  
your child with  
numeracy

# Developing an understanding of number

I have explored numbers, understanding that they represent quantities, and I can use them to count, create sequences and describe order. **MNU 0-02a** Curriculum for Excellence – Early Level Number Processes

Many children have a good awareness of numbers by the time they start Primary 1. Even children who are good at recognising numbers still need to develop their understanding of how to form numbers correctly, as well as developing a deeper understanding of quantities, counting skills, and number recognition.

## Number Formation

Your child will learn the correct formation of numbers initially by learning number rhymes and Number Zoo characters such as butterfly three.

*Around the tree, around the tree, that's the way we make a 3.*



Both strategies will provide children with visual and oral clues about how to form numbers correctly. You could help by asking your child to show you how to write a given number neatly and to say the number rhyme with them as they write this number.

## Quantities of Numbers

In Primary 1, we aim to develop a secure understanding of the quantities of numbers. You could help your child by counting out a set number of sweets or asking your child to find you a set number of toys. Try to encourage your child to match a set number of items to the number itself.

e.g. match 3 teddies beside the written number 3

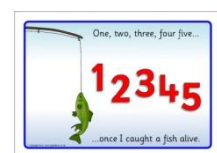
We use the Numicon resource to help children to develop this further in school.



## Counting Skills

Here are a few ways you could help your child develop their counting skills:

- Counting forward and back to 10 and then to 20
- Counting steps as you walk/climb stairs
- Counting a given number of objects – how many sweets do I have?
- Singing counting songs, e.g. 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught A Fish Alive/5 Little Monkeys



## Number Recognition

Numbers are everywhere! Encourage your child to spot numbers in different places.

- Look at numbers on buses, cars, shop price tags, house doors, on television etc.
- Practise recognising numbers by using die in games
- Write numbers in sand, using play dough, with paint, using shaving foam etc.
- Play number games e.g. spot 5 red cars
- Dot-to-dot activities



# Learning about numbers and so much more!

Numeracy in school is more than just number work. We explore lots of different topics to encourage children to have a well-rounded experience of all areas of numeracy.

Below are some topics covered in Primary 1 and ways in which you can help your child to develop these further:

## Addition and Subtraction

Later in Primary 1, children will be learning how to add and subtract within 10 by learning the number stories.

e.g. Story of 1

$$0 + 1 = 1$$

$$1 + 0 = 1$$



- Write out the number stories using rainbow colours, in sand, using shaving foam etc.
- Use cubes or other counting materials to help add and subtract
- Roll two dice and add the numbers together to find a total
- Roll two dice and subtract the smaller number from the bigger number
- Find different ways to make a given number, e.g. 1 red sweet + 4 green sweets = 5 sweets/ 2 red sweets + 3 green sweets = 5 sweets
- Find the difference between, e.g. I have 2 coins, you have 5 coins so how many more coins do you have than me?

## 2D and 3D Shapes

- Find 2D shapes and 3D objects around you, e.g. a clock is a circle/a ball is a sphere etc.
- Use 2D shapes to make simple patterns e.g.
- Use 2D shapes and 3D objects to make pictures or models
- Sort shapes using different criteria - Which shapes are round? Which shapes are jaggy? Which shapes can roll?
- Spot different 2D shapes within 3D objects, e.g. squares on all sides of a cube
- Describe a shape and ask your child to guess which one you are talking about e.g. I am thinking of a 2D shape that is round and has no corners... (a circle)



## Measure

- Use different vocabulary for measure – tall, small, heavy, light, wide, narrow, most, least, full, empty, etc.
- Compare different toys – Which bear is taller? Which bear is the heaviest? etc.
- Play with water/sand, filling up different containers and talking about which has the most/which is the heaviest etc.
- Use tape measures/rulers during play to measure different items
- Measure using hands/blocks/coins and other non-standard units of measurement
- Let your child help measure when you are baking/cooking



# Learning about numbers and so much more!

## Time

- Discuss routines and events with your child, e.g. getting ready, going to school, having dinner etc. and the time of day that these events take place
- Look at different clocks and watches and show your child o'clock times, e.g. it's time to get up, it's 7 o'clock
- Look at calendars and discuss days of the week and months of the year
- Help your child to learn their own birthday and other family members' birthdays
- Talk about the different seasons and link to weather and events, e.g. Winter – snowy, Christmas etc.



## Sorting, Organising and Using Information

- Sort different items using categories, e.g. sort toys by colour, size, type
- Sort out household recycling
- Order items, e.g. ordering toys from smallest to largest
- Spot the difference pictures
- Identify similarities and differences between different things, e.g. tree and a flower – both plants (similarity), one is tall and one is small (difference)
- Help your child to carry out small questionnaires such as “What is your favourite colour?” then discuss the results together – What colour got the most votes? etc.



## Money

- Play shops with your child using real and plastic money
- Help your child to identify different coins to 10p and then to £1
- Talk about the similarities and differences between different coins, e.g. 1p and 2p are both copper
- Spot the numbers on the different coins – 1 on a 1p coin, etc.
- Through play, let your child explore paying for items and giving change
- Use 1p coins to add up to 10 and then 20
- Let your child help pay for things in shops by handing over the money at a cash desk



## Position and Movement

- Help your child to learn their left from right (left makes a L shape)
- Do some orienteering with your child, e.g. go forward 2 steps, turn left, etc.
- Do treasure hunts with your child and help them to find things by giving instructions
- Use different positional vocabulary – under, over, next to, beside, on top of, etc.
- Hide a toy in the room and ask your child to tell you where it is using this kind of language
- Play games with your child and let them give you instructions on where to go

