

Number: Uses of number – Suggestions for learning at home

Why learning about uses of number is important

Children will encounter numbers in a wide variety of ways in their day to day lives. Numbers are used for labelling and identifying (e.g., *phone numbers*), for describing quantities or amounts (e.g., *counting sweets, measuring amounts*) and for describing order or positions (e.g., *2nd place*). Numbers are integral to a wide range of activities, from simple tasks like telling the time and counting money to more complex ones such as measuring ingredients in a recipe or reading charts, tables, and data. Early understanding and recognition of different uses of numbers supports children's future learning in Maths, as well as their engagement with numbers at home and in the wider world. Understanding and discriminating the uses of numbers helps children to develop a sense of order and structure, enhancing their ability to grasp more advanced mathematical concepts in the future. Early exposure to the practical applications of numbers also boosts children's confidence and competence in handling real-world relatable situations, preparing them for the mathematics of everyday life.

IDEAS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- With your child, explore and discuss the various ways numbers are used in their home, e.g., *on clocks, calendars, on the weather forecast, shoe sizes, etc., everyday objects around the house, such as toys, books, or utensils.*
- Include numbers in conversations around your daily routines, e.g., *talking about bedtime, how many minutes until you have to leave for school, crossing dates off the calendar, counting place settings to set the table, discussing the sequence of the day (first we will go to the shop, second we will go to the library), identifying the model of appliances or items of clothing.*
- Involve your child in cooking or baking activities where they experience numbers in practical ways, e.g., *counting or measuring ingredients, following steps in a recipe, observing the temperature of the oven, setting a timer.*
- When reading with your child, highlight and discuss numbers that appear in images or as part of the text.
- Take advantage of outdoor spaces and the local area to explore numbers. Have your child count trees, flowers, or rocks, look for numbers on road signs or car registrations.
- When going on a journey, draw your child's attention to how numbers are used, e.g., *taking bus 11A to travel to town, following speed limits, the amount of time taken for a journey.*
- Use your child's interests to engage them in conversation around uses of number, e.g., *when watching a football match, talk about the scores, the jersey numbers, the duration of the match.*



BOOKS

- *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, Eric Carle, 4+ years
- *Henry the Fourth*, Stuart J. Murphy, 4+ years
- *Pancakes for Breakfast*, Tomie DePaola, 4+ years
- *Have You Seen My Dragon?*, Steve Light, 4+ years
- *1, 2, 3 to the Zoo*, Eric Carle, 4+ years
- *Spend It!* Cinders McLeod, 4+ years
- *What's the Time, Mr Wolf?*, Debi Giori, 5+ years
- *Tom and the Tinfoil of Trouble*, Nick Sharratt and Stephen Tucker, 5+ years
- *Tally O'Malley*, Stuart J. Murphy, 6+ years

*Your local library provides a wide range of free books and resources which support in developing children's mathematical learning



GAMES / ACTIVITIES

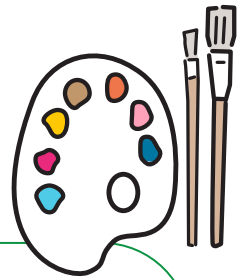
- Classic board games such as Snakes and Ladders where children roll dice, count spaces, and recognise numbers as they move their pieces
- Sequencing activities, e.g., sequencing stories, connect the dots activities
- Outdoor games, e.g., *hopscotch*
- Number races, e.g., *give your child a number and race them to retrieve that quantity of a particular item (such as beanbags, leaves, stones)*
- Number-based songs like "Five Little Ducks" or "Ten in the Bed," where children can sing along and hold up the corresponding number of fingers



LEARNING ONLINE

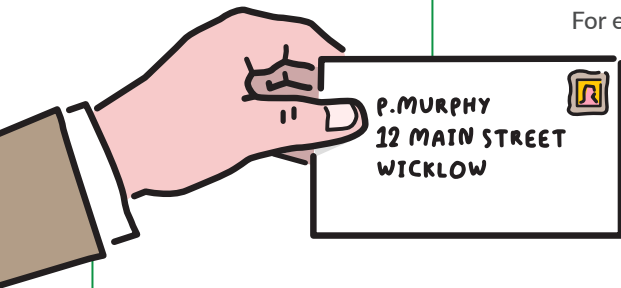
- Help My Kid Learn www.helpmykidlearn.ie
- Scoilnet www.scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/mathematics/
- Maths Week Ireland Parents' Zone www.mathsweek.ie
- Maths Eyes <https://haveyoutgotmathseyes.com/>

Useful terms to search online: uses of number, number, learning, primary, maths, numerals, nominal numbers, cardinal numbers, ordinal numbers, games, activities



ARTS AND CRAFTS

- Make a number collage (using newspapers, magazines, catalogues, etc.) by cutting out numbers and gluing them onto a large sheet of paper showing how numbers appear in various contexts.
- Create recipe cards or books. Draw or paste pictures of ingredients and measurements needed, learning how numbers are used in cooking
- Make a large number line on a long strip of paper and decorate it with stickers, drawings, or stamps.
- Create a personalized height chart and mark it to show growth over time.
- Create 'paint by number' pictures.
- Use number stamps and ink pads to create patterns or scenes with numbers.
- Make monthly calendars and mark holidays, birthdays, and special events.
- Create 'Dice Art' - Roll dice to determine how many of each item to draw or paint. For example, if a 3 is rolled, draw three stars or three trees.



YOUR OWN IDEAS

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a light blue border, intended for students to write their own ideas. The box is connected to the 'YOUR OWN IDEAS' header by a green line.