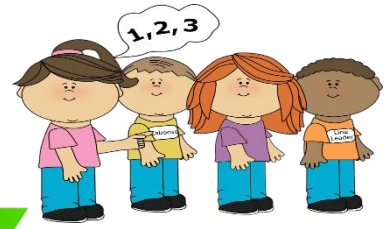




HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH MENTAL MATHS



Foundation Stage
P1 and P2

Mental Maths is a group of skills that allow an individual to do maths "in their head". In the Foundation Stage, we start this from the beginning ensuring that there is concrete understanding of basic number facts.

By the end of Foundation Stage children will have developed an understanding of number to 20. Through making sets, counting and ordering activities children will begin to develop mathematical concepts. Children will become confident using key mathematical language such as 'before', 'after' and 'in-between' when discussing numbers. They will also become confident in counting forwards and backwards within 20.

Counting activities will allow children to begin to develop an understanding of numbers beyond 20.

Children will begin to add and subtract within 20.

Key Language

add	subtract	difference	equals	guess
more than	take away	same as	less than	
bigger	smaller	how many	total	
count on	count back	number before	number after	
number between	doubles	near doubles		

Mental Maths Strategies We Use...



Counting On and Counting Back

- Working out the number before, after and in-between.
- Working out missing numbers using a number line, Numicon, cards with numbers on, etc.
- Using the relationship between addition and subtraction

Re-ordering Numbers

- Make calculations easier

Eg. $1 + 7$ Put the larger number first so the equation becomes $7 + 1$.

- Understanding the importance of 10

Eg. 17 is 10 and 7 more 14 is 10 and 4 more

- Using mathematical language

Understanding the Relationship Between Addition and Subtraction

Help your child to make links between adding and subtracting.

For example:

- *If I had 6 sweets and you gave me 1 more, how many would I have now?*
- *Six and how many more make 10? 10 take away 6 equals 4.*
- *A lolly costs 6p, how much change from 10p?*
- $3 + ? = 5$



Quick Recall

During the Foundation Stage we work towards the children being able to use their knowledge of numbers to 20 to answer questions quickly.

For example:

- ❖ Number before, after and between
- ❖ Ordering and re-ordering numbers
- ❖ Add 0 or 1 to a given number
- ❖ Add 2 to a given number
- ❖ Know doubles up to $5 + 5$
- ❖ Know number stories to 5 *Eg. $5 + 0$, $4 + 1$, $3 + 2$, $2 + 3$, $1 + 4$, $0 + 5$*
- ❖ Subtract 0 or 1 from a given number
- ❖ Addition and subtraction of all numbers within 10
- ❖ One more/one less within 20
- ❖ Know "near doubles" within 10 *Eg. $3 + 3 = 6$ so $3 + 4 = 7$*
- ❖ Know doubles up to $10 + 10$ *Eg. $1 + 1 = 2$, $2 + 2 = 4$, $3 + 3 = 6$...*
- ❖ Subtraction within 5 and later 10



(Please note that these are a guide of topics your child may be exploring throughout the Foundation Stage)

Counting Activities You Could Try at Home



- Practise chanting the number names.
- Encourage your child to join in with you. When they are confident, try starting from different numbers. *Eg. 4, 5, 6... also try counting backwards.*
- Sing number rhymes together.
- Give your child the opportunity to count objects (coins, clothes pegs, Lego bricks, cutlery etc.). Encourage them to move each object as they count them.
- Count things you cannot touch - jumps, claps, fruit in a bag, people in a queue.
- Play games that involve counting. *Eg. Snakes and Ladders, dice games.*
- Look for numbers in the environment. *Eg. car number plates, sign posts, door numbers, prices in a supermarket.*
- Make mistakes when chanting, counting or ordering numbers. Can your child spot what you have done wrong?
- Choose a number of the week: *Eg. 5. Practise counting in 5's, up to 5, on from 5, collect groups of 5 items.*

Other Ideas...

- Throw 2 dice and find the total or the difference. Write a number sentence about the dice.
 $4 + 2 = 6$ $4 - 2 = 2$ Who got the highest/lowest score?
- Visit your local library and choose books which have numbers in the stories:
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Six Dinner Sid
- Use dominoes to match numbers and find totals: *Eg. Can you find 2 dominoes that have 8 spots?*
- Matching cards which you can turn over and use as a memory game.
- Make Bingo cards. Call out $2 + 3$ and cover 5



The bulk of this leaflet was compiled by:

Carmel Fitzsimons	St Colmcille's PS
Pamela Crawford	Crawfordsburn PS
Robert Thompson	SEELB

Changes to the presentation, additions and omissions have been made by Miss O Woods.