

Early Years Maths



Ways to help at home

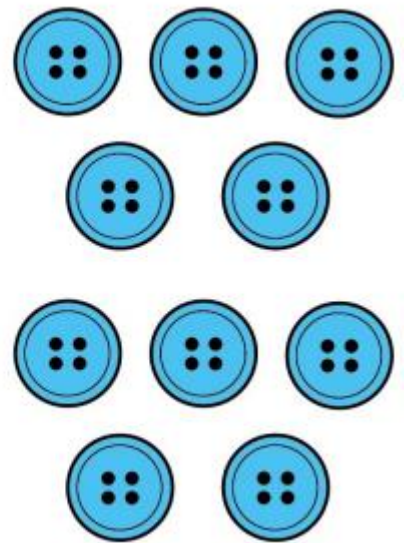
Number and Shape recognition: Activity 3 – Hidden numbers

What to do:

- Start with 5 counters on a surface. Count them together.
- Explain that the cup is going to catch some counters and the only way to free them is to say how many are under the cup.
- Make a game of the cup hovering over and then 'catching' some counters. Can your child work out how many have been caught underneath using the number of counters remaining? - They may use number facts (3 still free, $3+2=5$ so 2 caught), counting on with fingers (3 free, so $4...5...=2$ under the cup) or guessing.
- Repeat the game. Your child may become more strategic in their working out as they play, or you can reduce the number of counters to help them.
- You can repeat this game, changing the number of counters in play.

What you need:

- A cup (optional eyes drawn on)
- 5-10 counters (cereal shapes, buttons, coins, etc.)



Questions to ask:

- How many counters are there?
- What if the cup trapped one? How many would still be free?
- There are 5 Cheerios. Munch, munch, munch. Now there are two left. How many has the cup eaten?
- Can we count on to find how many are hidden?
- If there are 4 still free then how many are under the cup?

How you could challenge your child:

Perform the trick together in front of an audience but tell them you are using 'magic'. You could cover the counters with a magic hat (paper rolled in a cone with stars drawn on it) and see if you and your child can hoodwink the audience using magical maths. Use this principle with small animals or people and a box for a building. How many people are in the house/animals in the barn? Reverse roles and get your child to test you.