

Number and Number Sense

Welcome to this week's Tapestry Information Post all about Numbers and Number Sense.

Learning about numbers and what they mean is a really important part of early child development. There are 4 'Big Ideas' around learning about numbers and it's important children have a good grasp of them.

Counting.

Counting how many objects there are - initially by touching each one and 'tagging' it with a number (saying the number). Children can then use this skill to count things that they can't touch like noises or movements (ie claps and jumps).

Comparison.

Learning to compare groups of objects is the first step in comparing numbers, knowing which one has more or less.

Cardinality.

This is knowing that the last number you say in the counting sequence is how many there are in a group. When there is a small group of objects, you may know how many there are without having to count - this is called subitising.

Composition.

Knowing that there are smaller numbers within numbers is composition - for example 5 can be composed of 2 and 3.

Additional Information

Home Involvement - how can you support your child?

Counting.

- * Sing lots of number songs so that children become very familiar with the number sequence.

- * Count things all the time! How many cars can you see? How many chips are on your plate? How many shoes are by the door?

- * Ask your child to pass you.. 3 apples/4 lego bricks etc

Comparison

- * Have some objects that you divide into piles - Who has more? Who has less?

When comparing amounts children often want to have the 'most', so it can be better to divide the objects between teddies and ask 'which teddy has the most?'. Children find the idea of 'more' easier to grasp than 'less'. Try to ask which has 'less' just as frequently.

Cardinality

- * After counting a group of objects ask 'how many are there?'. Modelling how to

count and know how many there are is also important for children to understand. For example '1, 2, 3, 4 - there are 4. I have got 4 blocks. Can you show me 4 on your fingers?'. This would show you that your child knows how many 4 is.

*Subitising is not easily taught, rather it is something that needs to be visited frequently. Playing dice games are a good way to become familiar with how numbers can be represented. You could also ask 'how many are there?' whenever you see a collection of objects/spots (with a total of 5).

Composition * Sing 5 little speckled Frogs - using toys or stones to represent the frogs and move them when singing. Notice how many there are on the log or in the pool. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQTVrxj4l6o> (please supervise your children when online). * You could also sing 5 little ducks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZw9veQ76fo> (please supervise your children when online).

We would love to see any of your home learning on Tapestry!