

PROMOTING FLUENCY WITH NUMBERS AND SEQUENCES

As early years practitioners, we use a range of techniques to promote fluency with numbers and sequences. We do this during daily routines and moments throughout the day by using song, recognition, and repetition. An example of fluency with numbers is recognising the numerals 0 to 10 when they are not presented in order. An example of fluency with a sequence is being able to say the counting sequence forwards or backwards, in the correct order.

Promoting fluency aims to support children to remember numbers and sequences. They can then use this knowledge during other learning and mathematical experiences.

At Childhaven Nursery School, we invite parents to visit nursery to join their own child to co-play and learn alongside them. We also communicate ideas through social media as much as possible, such as offering guidance, modelling ways to make learning accessible, and suggesting ideas to use at home. Through this communication, we can empower parents to gain new skills and develop ideas alongside their children.

We are dedicated to allowing our children a range of experiences to develop mathematical concepts using a range of media in all of our spaces, with the use of five frames being identified all around to use with loose parts, both indoors and outdoors consistently.

With the ever increasing range of children arriving to join us, each with different levels of understanding and early development, all of the resources we have are core and create a consistent level of security for the children to come and return, to develop and consolidate their learning.

Parent Café: Maths Focus, June 2025

At a recent Parent Café, we used number stones on their own or with five frames. The first part of our activity for parents and their children, was a challenge to collect 5 or 10 stones to create a collection of number stones to use at home. We then provided a mixture of media to decorate and number the stones. Parent and child feedback was extremely encouraging:

"My child has played with these at home so much, she is so proud of making them, and I had a great time talking to other parents."

"I love my stones!"

"You always have the most wonderful, yet simple and easy ideas to do, thank you."



WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SAY?

Some key findings from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Evidence Store highlight:

- Promoting fluency with numbers can have a positive impact on children's early mathematics.
- Practicing and repeating the count sequence or matching a number word or name with a number symbol can support children's maths development.

Our children and parents are developing mathematical concepts, recognising numbers along with promoting fluency with numbers, and exploring patterns and sequence. Consider how you approach fluency of numbers in your setting alongside...

- **Parental involvement**
- **Resourcefulness**
- **Working with others**
- **A sound understanding of early number**
- **The ability to use mathematical language in play**
- **Exploring and developing learning with the use of a 5 or 10 frame**
- **Creating resources to use at home**

Further reading can be found on the EEF evidence store, using the following link:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/evidence-store/early-mathematics?approach=promoting-fluency-with-numbers-and-sequences>



THANK YOU FOR READING.

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