



Subject
Information



Soaring to success

Maths Early Years

“Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically.” (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children work on developing and enhancing their knowledge of the number system, shape, space and measure. This is achieved through adult-led teaching to introduce mathematical concepts, and is secured through enhancements and activities within the areas of provision, which the children access both independently and with adult support. The children have access to a range of practical equipment including counting materials, number lines and tens frames, as well as other resources such as songs, rhymes and number stories.

Children will be taught to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. They will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built.

There are six main areas that collectively underpin children’s early mathematical learning, and which provide the firm foundations for the maths that children will encounter as they go up the years in primary school.

They are:

- Cardinality and Counting: understanding that the cardinal value of a number refers to the quantity, or ‘howmanyness’ of things it represents
- Comparison: understanding that comparing numbers involves knowing which numbers are worth more or less than each other
- Composition: understanding that one number can be made up from (composed from) two or more smaller numbers
- Pattern: looking for and finding patterns helps children notice and understand mathematical relationships
- Shape and Space: understanding what happens when shapes move, or combine with other shapes, helps develop wider mathematical thinking
- Measures: comparing different aspects such as length, weight and volume, as a preliminary to using units to compare later.