



Activity Idea

Activity	Estimation station
Main Focus	Comparison

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clear jar or large container (crate, basket or bucket) ➤ Collection of objects of relatively similar size, e.g. marbles, beads, balls, pine cones, pebbles ➤ Post-it notes, pens or pencils ➤ Number track or number line
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Activity Outline	<p>The aim of the activity is for children to estimate how many things are in the jar, then to count them to find out if they were right.</p> <p>Place a collection of objects in a jar (you can use any amount suitable for the children you are working with. Your number track or number line must contain the same or more numbers so children can use this to support them.)</p> <p>Ask the children questions in order to help them come up with their estimations. Questions such as, <i>“how many do you think there are altogether?”</i>, <i>“Why do you think that?”</i>, <i>“How many can you see?”</i> <i>“Do you think some are hidden?”</i> can help children to problem solve and estimate.</p> <p>Encourage children to record their guesses on post-it notes using the number track or number line to support them to write the numeral, or record for them. Support children to then order their guesses along the number track or number line and discuss who has estimated the most, least, the same etc.</p> <p>Empty out the collection from the jar and put these in a line. Tagging each item by pointing to it encourage children to count the items with you.</p> <p>Engage children in further conversation about their estimates – ask questions such as, <i>“Did anyone guess the exact amount or number?”</i> <i>“Was your guess more or less than the actual amount?”</i> Can children explain how/why?</p>
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Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide a reference collection e.g. a jar with 5 cones in, labelled 5, so children can estimate whether there are more or less than 5 ✓ Set up a daily estimation station- varying size of objects and containers ✓ Set estimating challenges and record children’s predictions first: e.g. <i>How many pine cones can you fit in a yoghurt pot, a bucket?</i> Use balance scales: <i>How many little bears will balance the big bear?</i> ✓ Use different sized or shaped objects, for example different size keys
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