



Core Activity

Activity	Let's picnic
Main Focus	Counting

Possibilities for additional maths learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Activity Plan

Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Picnic 'guests' - ask each child to choose a resource from the setting to bring to a picnic as their guest. This could be a doll, a dinosaur, a car, whatever is available to the children and able to be cleaned after use. If the items are different this will help to provoke discussion. ➤ Cushions or carpet squares. (Covid-19 risk assessment dependant) ➤ Cups, saucers, plates, cutlery, napkins. ➤ Play food or something to represent the picnic food e.g. playdough (you can use real snacks if you wish). ➤ Jug or teapot full of imaginary or real water (cloth to mop up any spillages).

Activity
<p>Throw a picnic for the children's and their guests. Support the children to put down the cushions/carpet squares in a circle so their guests have somewhere to sit. Emphasise why a circle is being used so all of the guests can see each other. Ask the children to sit their chosen resource down on the cushions/carpet ready for the picnic. Count out how many guests are at the party and check everyone has arrived!</p> <p>Make some deliberate mistakes e.g. miscounting the guests and see if children pick up on this and then you can count them correctly together. Ask each of the guest's names and comment where possible on key features using mathematical language e.g. "Emma you have brought a very big dinosaur to the picnic", "Jack has brought a dinosaur too. Jack's dinosaur is smaller than Emma's dinosaur", "Sam's baby has a hat on top of its head". Use actions where possible to support what you are saying.</p> <p>You could ask each child to give their own guest a cup, a saucer, a plate, a spoon and a napkin or you could ask one child to give each teddy a cup, another child to give each guest a saucer and so on support them to count these out.</p>

You can again add in more deliberate mistakes such as saying you will give everyone one piece of fruit but then giving some guests two pieces. Notice how the children respond.

Allow children to pour drinks for their guests and comment on what they are doing using mathematical language such as, fast, slow, more, less, bigger, smaller. If children overflow cups and there are spillages, explore this encouraging them to talk about what happened.

Add some rhymes to the picnic, such as '5 little cakes on a picnic plate'.

Counting rhyme: '5 little cakes on a picnic plate'

*Five little cakes on a picnic plate
Round and fat, don't they look great?
Along came (name) to the picnic today
Saw a cake and took it away.
Four little cakes on a picnic plate
Round and fat, don't they look great?
Along came (name) to the picnic today
Saw a cake and took it away.
Three little cakes on a picnic plate
Round and fat, don't they look great?
Along came (name) to the picnic today
Saw a cake and took it away.
Two little cakes on a picnic plate
Round and fat, don't they look great?
Along came (name) to the picnic today
Saw a cake and took it away.
One little cake on a picnic plate
Round and fat, it looks great?
Along came (name) to the picnic today
Saw a cake and took it away.*

Extension Opportunities

- ✓ Provide some inappropriately sized things to spark discussion and problem solving e.g. cups and saucers of vastly differing sizes, large spoons and tiny cups.
- ✓ Choose a party guest and include them in other rhymes which include mathematical language. Here are some suggestions below.

Turn Around (usually Teddy bear, teddy bear but for this example we will use dinosaur)

*Dinosaur, dinosaur, turn around,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, touch the ground,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, reach up high,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, touch the sky,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, bend down low,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, touch your toes,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, go to bed,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, rest your head,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, turn out the lights,
Dinosaur, dinosaur, say "good night".*

Under Dolly's Jumper

Under Dolly's jumper,

Under Dolly's vest,

There's a little button,

Just waiting to be pressed

Lift up Dolly's Jumper,

Take a little peak,

And press the little button,

It goes squeak! squeak! squeak!

- ✓ Leave all of the resources out for children to play with and explore and observe their interactions and comment as they play.