

Big Ideas for Developing Number Sense

Early number sense		Activities and contexts		
Big Idea	Key observation the child	Outdoors	Indoors and routines	Stories, rhymes and role play
Counting - number sequence - tagging one to one - cardinal principle	- Says numbers in sequence - Counts objects accurately - Says how many there are 'Give me 9' from a larger group	- Hide and seek - Counting hops, jumps - Counting collections - Number hunts	- Tidying up, snack - Counting children - Collecting games	<i>1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive</i> <i>Have they got one each?</i> <i>How many now?</i>
Cardinality <i>the fiveness of 5</i> - number meanings - subitising - understanding numerals	- Talks about '3 cars' - Recognizes dot dice, fingers - Matches objects to a numeral	- Throwing and scoring beanbags in the tyre - Large dice games	- Recipes: 3 eggs etc. - Dot and numeral games and puzzles - Tidy up labels: <i>We should have 5 balls</i>	- Number picture books - Holding up finger numbers - Paying shop prices in pounds or pennies
Comparing numbers <i>the relative size of numbers</i>	- Talks about more and less - Predicts adding /taking 1 - Compares two numbers - Estimates 'about how many?'	- Goals: <i>How many now?</i> <i>Have you beaten your score?</i> - Collecting leaves	- Tidying up: <i>We need 1 more</i> - Snack time: <i>Who has more?</i> <i>How many in the jar?</i>	- Predicting <i>Green bottles</i> <i>Has he shared fairly?</i> - Space station: <i>How many stars?</i>
Composition <i>numbers made up of other numbers</i>	- Identifies numbers hidden inside a number - Says how many are hidden when 5 go in and 2 come out	Tidying up: <i>We've got 8 trucks - we need two more</i>	<i>6 is 3 and 3!</i> (on dice) - Snack time: 2 bits of fruit each	<i>How else could you show 6 fingers?</i> - Party time: <i>How many should they have each?</i>