

Learning objective

(Y1) Understand subtraction as 'how many more to make' (complementary addition).

You will need

Yellow Multilink cubes.

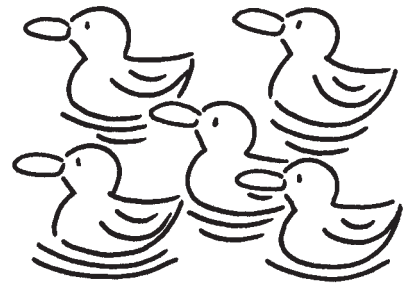
24 Five little ducks

What to do

- Sing 'Five little ducks went swimming one day'. Pick five children to stand at the front and pretend to be the ducks.
- Hold up five yellow cubes to represent the ducks. Hide some of the cubes behind your back. Ask: *How many ducks have swum away?* Demonstrate how to do this by counting on from the number of ducks that can be seen, up to the number 5.
- Split the children into pairs and give each pair a set of five yellow cubes. Ask them to take it in turns to hide some of the cubes behind their back. Can their partner work out how many ducks have swum away?
- Repeat the activity at a later date using a different number of cubes.

Target questions

- There are 5 ducks. If 2 swim away how many will be left?
- How did you work out how many cubes were behind my back?

**Learning objective**

(Y1) Count reliably at least 20 objects.

You will need

A pair of gloves; a collection of small objects, such as cubes or pebbles.

25 Grabbing gloves

What to do

- Choose a child to put on the 'grabbing' gloves and try to grab as many of the objects as they can in one go.
- Ask the child to count how many objects they grabbed. With the class, discuss different strategies to keep track of where the count begins and ends.
- Give each child a chance to wear the 'grabbing' gloves. Keep a score chart. At the end of the activity compare the scores to see who grabbed the most.

Target questions

- How could you arrange the objects to make sure you do not count any of them twice?
- Can you count the objects without touching them?

