



## A bunch of flowers

This activity provides opportunities for the children to use their senses as they paint and count scented flowers for a market stall and label the vases with numerals made from scented play dough.

**Early mathematicians** begin to count up to five flowers and recognise some numerals.

**More confident mathematicians** count up to ten flowers, create their own numerals and make a number line.

### What you need

Scented flowers (in a garden or bunch); ready-mixed paints; brushes; paper; scissors; lengths of garden cane; sticky tape; play dough; scents such as lavender and rose; set of plastic or laminated 1 to 9 numerals; child-safe vases.

### What to do

- Check that children do not have allergies before starting this activity. Set up one table for scented painting and one for scented play dough. Either take the children outside to see and smell flowers as they are growing or show them a bunch of scented flowers. Talk about the scents, colours and textures of the flowers.
- Explain to the children that they will be making scented paints to paint their own

flowers. Encourage them to smell the scents and help you add a little scent to the paints. Tell them that you want them to paint lots of flowers that they can then cut out and put into vases to make a flower stall. Help them tape their flower heads to pieces of garden cane and stand them in vases.

- Work a little scent into the play dough and encourage the children to enjoy smelling and moulding it. Give them the opportunity to experiment in moulding the play dough into the shapes of the numerals 1 to 9, referring to the laminated number cards.
- Ask the children to count the flowers in the vases. Tell them that you want them to label each vase with the correct number so

### Learning objectives Numbers as Labels and for Counting

- Select the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 9. (PSRN)
- Sometimes match number and quantity correctly. (PSRN)

### Early Learning Goals

- Count reliably up to ten everyday objects. (PSRN)
- Recognise numerals 1 to 9. (PSRN)