

Early Maths GAMES

Count the spots

You need: 1–6 dice, twelve counters.

How to play:

- Take turns to roll the dice.
- Count the number of dots shown.
- Place your counter on the toadstool with the matching number of spots.
- Repeat until one player has covered all the toadstools.
- Whoever covers them all first is the winner.

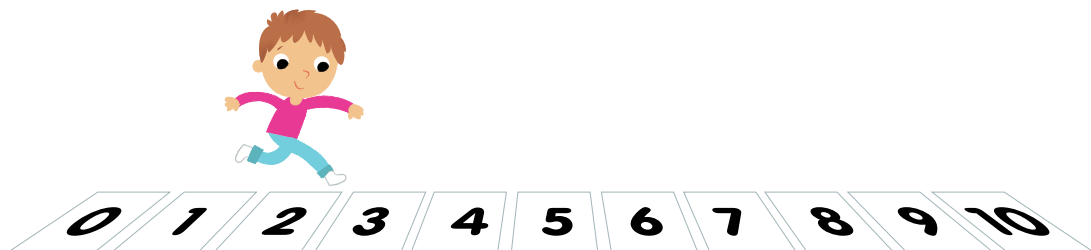


Number line counting

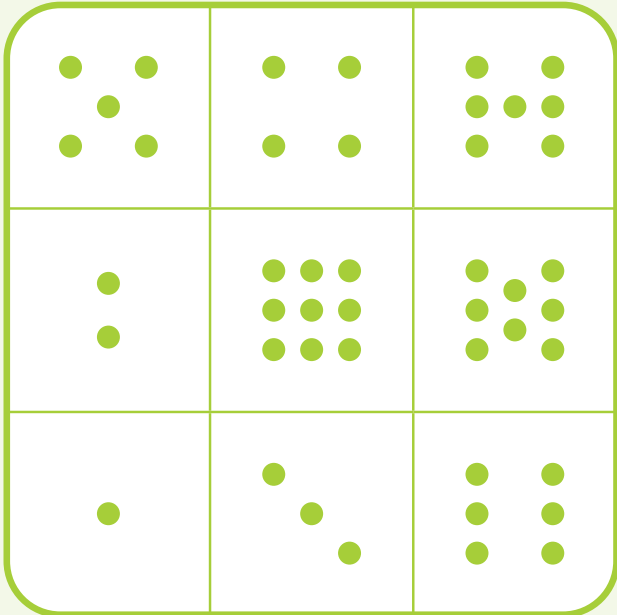
You need: 11 pieces of paper, objects from around your house (socks, spoons).

How to play:

- Write numbers 0–10 on pieces of paper (one number on each piece).
- Make a number line using the numbered pieces of paper.
- Ask an adult to say a number.
- Count and jump along beside the number line to the correct number.
- Find the correct number of objects from around your house to match the number.
- Repeat with another number.
- You could try starting on a different number and counting on or back.



One more and one less



You need: nine counters.

How to play:

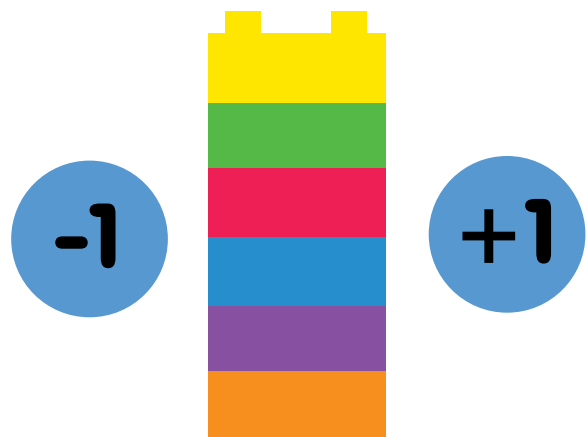
- Place counters over each box in the grid.
- Take turns to remove a counter.
- Say the number one more and one less than the number you uncovered.
- Repeat until all boxes are uncovered.

Building blocks

You need: Blocks or cotton reels to stack, a counter or coin.

How to play:

- Write +1 on one side of your counter and -1 on the other side.
- Build a tower using your blocks or cotton reels up to at least 5.
- Flip the counter.
- Take one block away if it lands on -1 or add a block if it lands on +1.
- Count how many blocks are in the tower now.
- Repeat.



Adding and taking away

You need: a 1–6 dice.

How to play:

- Roll the dice and write the number down.
- Roll the dice again.
- Add the spots together.
- Write the addition sum you did using + and =.

You need: a 1–6 dice.

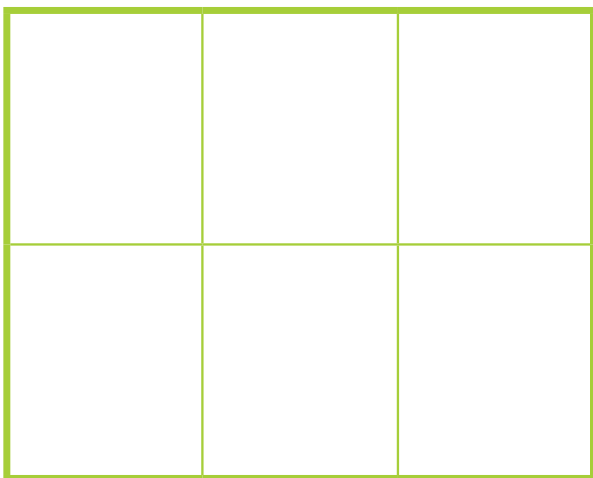
How to play:

- Roll the dice and write the number down.
- Roll the dice again.
- Take away the smaller number from the larger number.
- Write the take away sum you did using - and =.
Remember to write the larger number first.
- What happens if both numbers are the same?
Write this sum.

Bingo

You need: At least 2 players, bingo cards with 6 squares like the example.

How to play:



- Write any six numbers in the grid from 0–10.
- Take turns to say an addition or take away number sentence that will give an answer from 0–10.
- Work out the number sentence.
- If you have the matching number on your bingo card cross it off.
- Swap and repeat until someone crosses off all their numbers and shouts, 'Bingo!'

Money game

You need: A selection of different coins.

How to play:

- Ask an adult for some coins of different values.
- Make labels saying 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2.
- Sort the coins by value.
- Which coin have you got the most of?
- Now sort the coins by colour.
- How many different values of coin are in each set?
- Can you think of any other ways to sort the coins? Have a go.

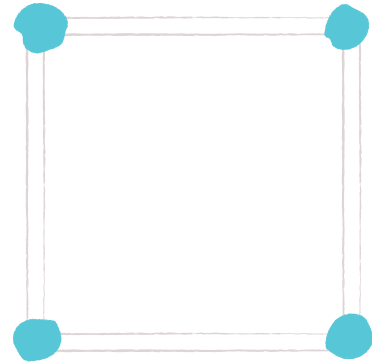


Shape construction

You need: paper straws, play dough.

How to play:

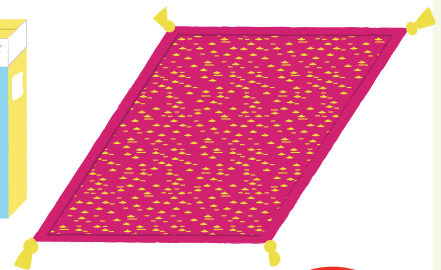
- Get a selection of paper straws. These will be the sides of each 2D shape.
- Get some play dough. This will be the corners of the shapes.
- Make a square using the correct number of straws and play dough to hold them together at the corners.
- Repeat making a triangle and a rectangle.
- Can you make a circle? Why/why not?
- What other shapes could you make? Look around your house to find a shape to copy.
- Can you make any 3D shapes using the straws and play dough?



Shape sort

How to play:

- Collect objects from around your house that are different 3D shapes. You will need a few of each shape.
- Once you have a good collection, sort them into groups of the same shape.
- How many shapes do you have with corners?
- How many round objects do you have?
- How many shapes with curved and straight edges do you have?
- Now see if you can sort them in a different way.











Shape hunt

How to play:

- Look for different shapes around your house in a shape hunt.
- Use the table to tick when you have found each shape.
- You could also draw each object you find.
- Describe the shapes to an adult.



circle	
triangle	
square	
rectangle	
cube	
sphere	
pyramid	
cone	

Challenge

How to play:

- Have a competition with someone in your house.
- Collect different shaped items.
- Who can be the first to find...
 - an item that rolls
 - two round items
 - an item with a curved edge and a straight edge
 - three items that stack?



Measurement game 1

How to play:

Have a competition with someone in your house.

Who can be the first to find something...

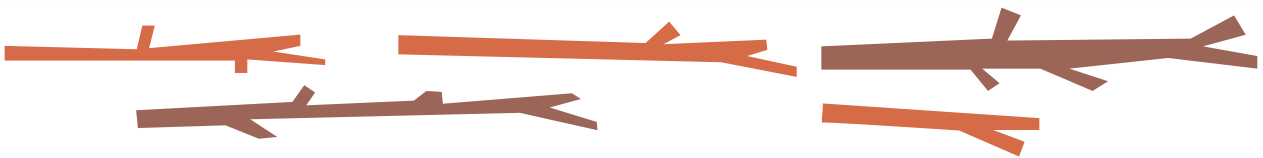
- longer than your pencil
- shorter than your shoe
- taller than a can of beans
- heavier than your book
- lighter than a can of beans
- that holds more liquid than a cup
- that holds less liquid than a jug?



Measurement game 2

How to play:

- Collect sticks from outside.
- Can you put them in order from the shortest to the longest?
- Can you put them in order from the longest to the shortest?



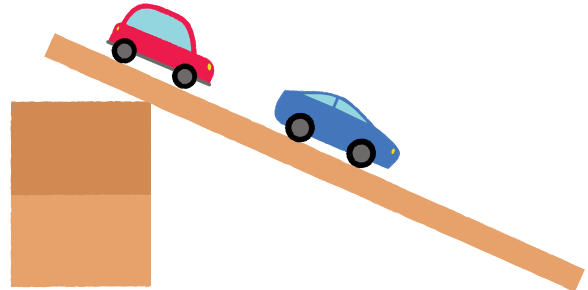
Distance game

How to play:

Have a competition with someone in your house.

- Send two cars down a ramp. Which went the furthest?
- Repeat with different cars.
- Make the ramp steeper. Do they go further?

You could make paper planes and see who can fly theirs the furthest.



Position games

Play I Spy using positional language:

- above
- below
- over
- under
- on
- in
- next to
- beside

Extend to using:

- in between
- left
- right
- after
- outside
- inside
- in front of
- behind
- opposite
- around