

Notes for parents and carers

Topic	Teaching tip	Key vocabulary	Extension activity
Counting to 3 page 4	Encourage your child to point at each object and count aloud.	number, count, one, two, three	Ask your child to count and collect toys or objects from around your home into groups of 3.
Counting to 5 page 5	Spend time talking about how or why we know how many candles there should be on each cake.	count on, count up to, three, four, five	Talk about birthdays with your child and ask them what else might have numbers on (for example, cards, balloons, badges).
Zero page 6	Explain that the empty vases have 'zero flowers' in them, as it can be hard for children to understand that 'zero' means 'nothing'.	number, zero, nothing, none, empty	Throw counters into a hoop or pot, one after another. Have 5 counters each and count how many you get in the target. Use the word 'zero' if it was none.
Recognising numbers to 5 page 7	To continue the activity, ask your child to count how many toys are not coloured in each row.	one, two, three, four, five	Place some large numbers 0 to 5 on the floor. Play Musical bumps with your child. Each time the music stops, you call a number and they find it and sit on it.
Counting to 8 page 8	Using toy food, help your child to collect and count food items to match the pictures.	six, seven, eight, many, few	Go outside and make a collection of 8 objects (for example, leaves, pebbles, shells, twigs or anything else your child is interested in). Count them together.
Counting to 10 page 9	Show your child how to make tally marks to help them count the butterflies and dots.	nine, ten, too many, too few, altogether	Sing a counting rhyme together, such as 'One, two, three, four, five – once I caught a fish alive'.
Recognising numbers 6 to 10 page 10	Use a number track (a long strip of squares with a number in each one) to help your child to identify each number.	row, group, recognise, same, different	Think of an action together for each number from 6 to 10, and draw it next to the number. Show the numbers out of order and ask your child to name the number and do the action.
Recognising numbers to 10 page 11	Encourage your child to say the numbers aloud when they are completing the dot-to-dot pictures.	number, check, order, group, how many?	Make the numbers 1 to 10 with play dough and ask your child to read them aloud. They collect each number as they read it and make a big play-dough ball.
Numbers around us page 12	Talk about why the envelopes have numbers on them. Ask your child how the numbers help, and what number your house is.	address, house number, road sign, number plate, different	Go for a number hunt around the house. Ask your child what numbers they recognise on the clock, calendar, washing machine or TV.
How many? page 13	Encourage your child to guess how many sweets or mini-beasts there are first, and then to count the objects to find the total.	group, how many?, guess, more, fewer	Help your child to make their own animal out of junk-modelling materials, including a number of legs, wings or antennae to count.
Sequencing to 5 page 14	Provide your child with a number track, so they can check that they have sequenced the numbers correctly.	sequence, forwards, order, follow, carry on	Make some cookies together and number them with icing. When eaten as treats over the next few days, they must be eaten in order.
Sequencing to 10 page 15	Help your child to count out loud, in sequence, to find the missing numbers.	sequence, missing, before, after, what comes next?	Make some stepping stones out of card and number them from 0 to 10. Ask your child to place them in order, to get across the shark-infested water!
Sequencing back from 5 page 16	Encourage your child to use an animated voice when counting down to lift-off.	count back, direction, countdown, up, down	Say the rhyme 'Zoom, zoom, zoom, We're going to the moon – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Lift-off!' together as you play space rockets.