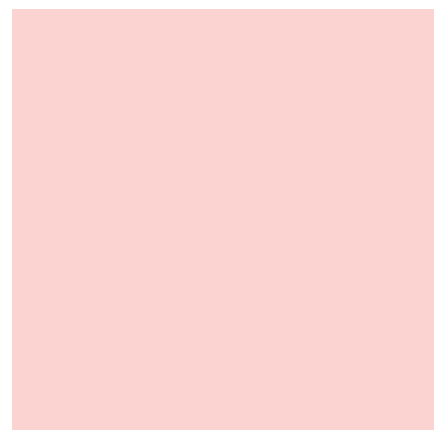




# Arithmetic

Ways to help your child with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division



In normal play situations children will naturally use arithmetic, such as sharing treats equally amongst friends. They will go through a process of needing to see and count each item, one at a time.

Children initially need objects with them in order to add, subtract, multiply or share equally (divide). We can encourage children to start counting from a larger number and add or subtract a second number.

Next children build mental images of a group or quantity so they do not always have to rely on seeing the objects. Helping children to mentally "see" groups of things will also help them understand multiplication and division before they learn their tables.

## Ways to help at home

- Play board games such as Snakes and Ladders with two dice and encourage your child to add the two numbers rolled. Show them how to count from the larger number
- Look at house numbers when going for a walk. Ask your child to guess what the next number will be
- Play card games such as 21 or bust. In this game, two cards are dealt to each player who adds the numbers together. Each player may ask for more cards from the "kitty" with the aim of being the person with the highest score that does not go over 21
- Use empty toilet paper rolls or empty plastic bottles and a ball to make a game of skittles. Encourage your child to tell you how many are still standing after bowling. Keep a score of how many are knocked down to see who is the winner
- Have your child share out food for the family. How many slices will I need to cut the pizza into so that everyone has two slices?
- Count the number of things in a collection such as shells in a bag or a large jar of buttons. Ask your child if there is a quick and easy way of counting, say by fives.