

Prep Maths – Term 1

In Term 1, students focus on developing a strong foundation in number. This includes recognising, reading, writing, and representing numbers to 5 and then 10, as well as counting collections of objects with understanding. Students will explore numbers through hands-on activities, games, songs, and practical experiences that support one-to-one correspondence (counting and pointing to objects at the same time).

Families can support learning at home by:

- Pointing out numbers in everyday life, such as house numbers, street signs, prices, clocks, calendar dates or car number plates.
- Talking about the ages of family members, friends, pets, or favourite toys.
- Encouraging your child to count objects around the home, like cutlery, fruit, Lego bricks, or shoes, touching or pointing to each item as they count.
- Playing simple board or card games. Practice reading numbers on a dot dice .
- Sing counting songs or rhymes, and clapping or moving as you count together.
- Setting up small collections for sorting and counting, such as buttons, pebbles, or blocks.
- Cooking or baking together and counting ingredients, spoonfuls, or servings.
- Asking your child to help set the table, counting plates, cups, or utensils.
- Using digital resources sparingly, such as interactive counting apps or online games that match the numbers they are learning.
- Number writing practice- paint on concrete or the deck using water and a paint brush, write in the dirt or sand using a stick, write on the glass shower screen while showering, make using playdough.

Even a few minutes of counting and number talk each day helps children build confidence and enjoyment in Maths. The drive to and from school is a perfect opportunity to get some number recognition practice in.

<h3>Maths Masters</h3> <p>Practice your child's maths masters skills with them.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>WHITE BELT Subitising Master Counting Master 0-10 Recognition Master Writing Master 0-10 Partitioning Master 3-9</p> </div> <p>Skill Sheet available at: https://eps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/1-White-Belt-Online-Resources-pdf.pdf</p>	<h3>Board Games</h3> <p>Play any board games you have at home that require your child to read a dice and count along the gameboard. You can also pick these up cheap from the op-shops in town or make your own.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<h3>Memory</h3> <p>Memory is a classic matching game where several pairs of cards are placed face down on a table (in mixed up order). Players turn over two cards at a time, looking for matches. It is best to use only part of a deck of cards to keep the game manageable. You'll need to sort out pairs before playing.</p> <p>Maths Skills Involved: Besides working to strengthen short-term memory, players can practice number recognition as well.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<h3>3 in a Row</h3> <p>How to play: A player takes a card from the top of the deck. This becomes their lead card. They continue to pull cards looking to create three in a row from their lead card. They can count forward, backward, or both. If I pull a 7 for my lead card, for example, and my next card is a 6, I can place it in front of the 7 in a row. I now have two in a row. I need either an 8 or a 5 to complete my three in a row. Players take turns pulling cards until someone gets three in a row. Discards are put in the bottom of the deck.</p> <p>Maths Skills Involved: Counting on/back</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<h3>Battle</h3> <p>Battle is a classic game sometimes called 'War'. Players each have a deck of cards (or split a deck of cards evenly.) They stack their cards face down, then each player turns over one card at a time. The player with the largest number gets both cards. If there is a tie, players each adds two more cards (one face down and one face up.) The player with the largest number on the new cards gets all 6 cards.</p> <p>Maths Skills Involved: This is a great game for comparing numbers. Variation: Use dominoes instead of cards. Each player turns over a domino and counts the total number of dots. The player with the largest total gets both dominoes.</p>	<h3>Go Fish</h3> <p>Go Fish is the classic card matching game where you deal out 5-7 cards per player, then place the rest of the cards in a "lake" or "ocean." Players take turns asking for cards or being told to "go fish" until all the cards have been matched.</p> <p>Maths Skills Involved: The traditional Go Fish game uses a deck of cards, so kids can practice recognising numbers to 10 with this math game.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

Online Resources for families:

<p>NRICH Maths at home website- find activities for Prep students and their families</p>	<p>https://nrich.maths.org/mathshome-age-3-5</p>
<p>Tenzi</p> <p>Concepts covered: Numeral recognition, counting</p> <p>Equipment: Dice (ten-sided work best)</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "Can you read that number?"; "How many ___s did you roll?"</p>	<p> Tenzi https://youtu.be/p0Lrrw6GB0</p>
<p>1, 2, 3, 4 Win Them All</p> <p>Concepts covered: Counting, numeral recognition</p> <p>Equipment: Deck of cards</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "Can you read that number?"; "Can you count the ___ on your card to check?"</p> <p><i>Shout-out to Paul Swan for teaching me this game.</i></p>	<p> 1, 2, 3, 4 Win Them All https://youtu.be/tgwehghQ-Cs</p>
<p>GET OUT OF MY HOUSE 2.0</p> <p>Concepts covered: Sequencing numbers</p> <p>Equipment: Deck of playing cards, counters/tokens, paper and pens</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "What's the other number you can place your counter on?"; (Students might initially only focus on what number comes after their card and neglect to consider what comes before.); "Is it a good idea to place lots of tokens on the one square? Why/why not?"; "What would you do differently next time you played?"</p> <p><i>Shout-out to Kerri Smith for providing ideas for this game.</i></p>	<p> GET OUT OF MY HOUS... https://youtu.be/1RgxMM-aexo</p> <p>**Another great comparing numbers game: Which Is Bigger https://youtu.be/tS8m9yIVOck</p>
<p>Swap</p> <p>Concepts covered: Ordering numbers</p> <p>Equipment: Deck of cards</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "Why did you choose to swap that card?"; "What card would go before/after the ___?"</p> <p><i>Shout-out to Paul Swan for creating this game.</i></p>	<p> Swap https://youtu.be/TmVKNKrmSRg</p>
<p>Order, Order</p> <p>Concepts covered: Sequencing numbers</p> <p>Equipment: Deck of cards</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "Can you read that number?"; "Why did you choose to place that card next?"; "What card would go before/after the ___?"</p> <p><i>Shout-out to Paul Swan for creating this game.</i></p>	<p> Order, Order https://youtu.be/1SEHow-V1tk</p>
<p>One Minute Challenge</p> <p>Concepts covered: Counting</p> <p>Equipment: Ball, stopwatch</p> <p>Good questions to ask while playing: "How many catches do you think you will get the next time we play?"; "What makes you think that?"; "Would it be more than less than 30? How do you know?"</p>	<p> One Minute Challenge https://youtu.be/ZDqP6rfDcBk</p>

*Modify to a shorter time eg 30 seconds on the timer to reduce number size if needed.