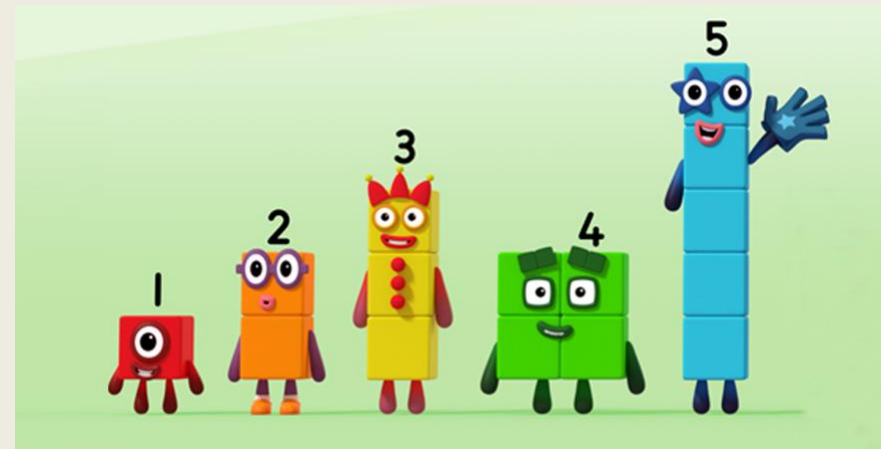


# Beginning to explore number

It's never too early to explore numbers with your child. Real life often provides the best opportunities to develop early maths skills like counting and recognising numbers.

Counting is one of the first maths skills that children develop at school.

Here are some ideas that will help your child to explore numbers, giving them a great start to developing early maths skills and concepts.



# Listen to and sing songs and rhymes

**Sing – even if it isn't your strong point!**

Singing songs is a good way for children to become familiar with counting.  
Don't worry if they choose the same songs again and again!

**Here are some** counting songs to sing:

10 Green Bottles

1, 2, Buckle My Shoe

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

Five little ducks

Five little monkeys sitting on the bed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-counting-songs/zn67kmn>



# Talk about numbers around you

It's never too early to explore numbers and counting with your child. Real life often provides the best opportunities to develop maths skills. Talking about numbers around you early and often will show your child that numbers are part of everyday life. There are loads of fun and easy things you can try to help your child to explore numbers, giving them a great start to developing early maths skills and concepts.

- **Numbers are all around us**, from calendars to the remote control, the telephone to car registration plates.
- Try pointing out numbers when you're out and about – on front doors, signs, the front of buses and train platforms.
- Talking about numbers around you early and often will show your child that numbers are part of everyday life.
- Choose a 'Number of the Week' and see how many times you can spot this number, around the house, out in the street or in the supermarket.



# Read together

**Share a book with your child.**

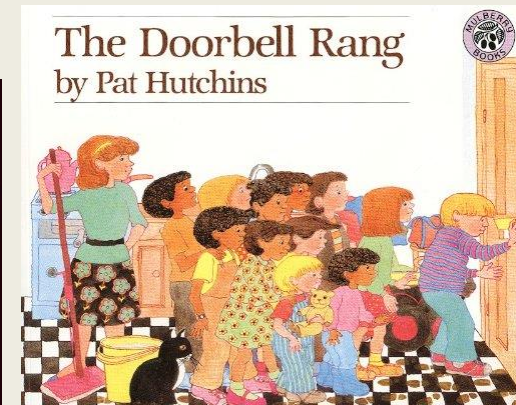
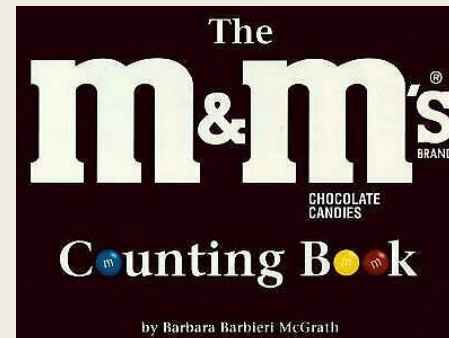
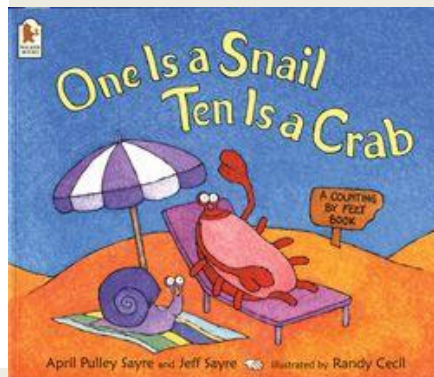
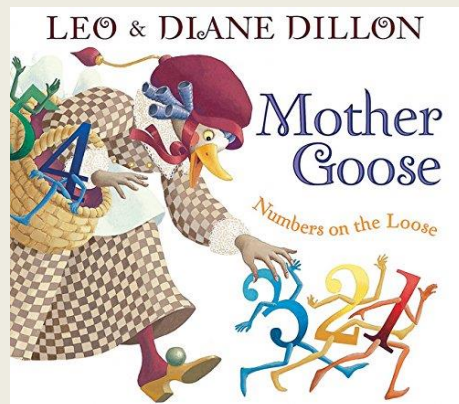
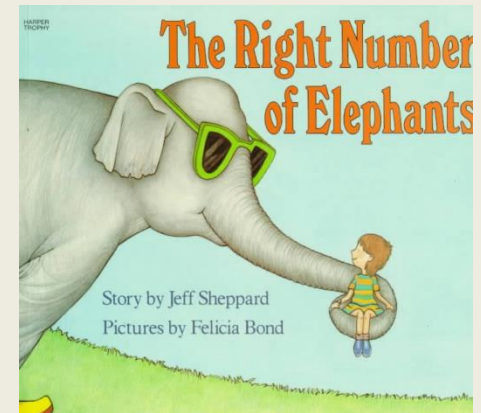
There are many fantastic books based around numbers, but any book can be used to help children develop early counting and number recognition skills.

\*Take time to talk about what your child can see on each page.

\*Count objects on the page, and compare the number of objects from page to page.

\* Look at the page numbers and say them together.

Here is a link to access some [free eBooks >](#)



# Count as much as you can

## Count whenever you can

- Count together, as well as letting your child see and hear you counting. Practise chanting numbers and, as your child's confidence grows, start from different numbers – 5, 6, 7, etc.
- Count real objects – your child's toy cars, pencils, shoes, or the number of stairs in your house. Don't worry if your child remembers the answer – they can count to check!
- Try to stick to a single type of object for each counting activity, and encourage your child to touch or pick up each object as they count it.
- Ask your child to help you sort cutlery or laundry, counting as you sort.
- When you go out for a walk, count your footsteps, the number of cars or houses you see etc.





# Practice forming numerals

**Help your child to learn the numerals by exploring their shapes.**

- \*Have fun forming numbers in sand with a stick.
- \*Make numbers out of modelling clay.
- \*Write numbers for your child to copy.
- \*Hold your hand over theirs as they write the number so they can feel how to write it.
- \*Try holding their finger and forming the number in the air.
- \*Begin to encourage your child to write numbers on their own.

**Here is a fun activity to help practice writing numbers**

## [Writing Numbers](#)

Watch this musical animation and download the activity sheet to the right to help your child write their numbers.

## [Writing Numbers](#)

Practise writing numbers with this activity sheet and the musical animation to the left.