Helping Your Child with Maths in Reception

Key points

- Children learn best when they start by handling real objects, which is called the 'concrete' stage.
- After using objects, children often move to the 'pictorial' stage, where they use drawings or pictures to show their thinking.
- The 'abstract' stage is when children use numbers and symbols, like the plus sign (+), to write down what they have learned.
- Moving through these three steps helps children truly understand how numbers work rather than just memorising them.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and some may need more time with objects before moving to drawings or numbers.
- Your child's teacher can tell you which specific methods or tools they are using in class.

Things to try at home

- Count everyday items together, such as pieces of fruit in a bowl or socks in the laundry.
- Use a 'number hunt' to find numbers on signs, food packets, or house doors during a walk.
- Draw simple pictures, like circles or stars, to represent a small group of objects you have found.
- Play simple games with dice or cards to explore numbers in a playful way.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's maths lead.
- The GOV.UK website for information on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the curriculum for children in Reception.