

Subitising: Helping Your Child 'See' Numbers

Key points

- Subitising is when a child can look at a small group of objects and know how many there are without counting them one by one.
- It is a key part of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) maths curriculum, which is the framework for children from birth to age five.
- Some children can see a small number instantly, while others see smaller groups that add up to a total, such as seeing two dots and one dot to make three.
- Developing this skill helps children build a strong foundation for more complex maths as they move into Year 1.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and your child's teacher can tell you more about how they are progressing in class.

Things to try at home

- Play a quick game of 'finger flashes' where you show a few fingers for a second and ask your child how many they saw.
- Use a dice during a board game and encourage your child to call out the number without counting the dots.
- While snacking, put a small number of grapes or crackers on a plate and ask, 'How many are there?' before they start eating.
- Spot small groups of things while you are out and about, like three red cars or two birds on a fence.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's EYFS lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official information on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.