

Dear families,

This term in maths, your child is exploring numbers up to 8 and discovering all the different ways to make each number. They are using ten frames and small objects to count, spot patterns and find out how many more are needed to make 8.

By the end of the unit, children will know every way to make 8, such as 3 and 5 make 8, or 6 and 2 make 8. They are learning this through hands-on play rather than written sheets, using things like building blocks, counters, buttons and their fingers to split and combine small groups of objects.

Being able to split numbers up and put them back together is a really important building block for maths. It helps children move on confidently to adding and taking away later on.

Ideas to try at home

- At snack time, share out 8 grapes or crackers between two plates in different ways and talk about what you notice, such as 4 and 4, or 2 and 6.
- Line up 8 toys, such as cars or teddies, then hide some under a cup and ask your child how many are hidden if they can see the rest.
- During bath time or in the garden, count out 8 pebbles or bath toys and ask your child to split them into two groups in as many ways as they can find.
- Play a simple hiding game with 8 buttons or coins: show 8, hide a few in your hand, and ask how many are missing.

Thank you for your support at home. With best wishes, The Reception Team