

Ladybird doubles cards

This set of 5 ladybird cards shows the double facts to 10 (double 1 to double 5). Each card shows a ladybird with the same number of spots on each side, so children can see and count that a double is 'the same amount again'. Use the cards on the carpet, in continuous provision and in adult-led sessions to help children explore doubles, and to link doubling to odd and even numbers and to sharing fairly, as part of this unit on odds, evens and doubles to 10.

How to use

- Carpet time: hold up a card and cover one side of the ladybird. Ask the children to say how many spots are hidden, then reveal it and count all the spots together to check.
- Matching game: give pairs of children real counters, buttons or pom-poms and ask them to build the ladybird on a card, placing the same number of counters on each side of a drawn or chalked ladybird outline.
- Odd and even link: ask children to put the spots on one side of the ladybird into pairs. Because both sides match exactly, every spot has a partner, so the total is even.
- Ordering: place all 5 cards face down in the water tray, sand tray or a feely bag. Children pull out a card, count the spots, and order the cards from the smallest total to the largest.
- Role play: in the mud kitchen or garden, children hunt for real minibeasts or leaves and use the cards as a prompt to make their own 'double' using two equal handfuls.
- Sharing fairly: turn a card around so children see only the total number of spots, then ask them to share that many counters fairly between two toy ladybirds, checking it matches the card.
- Snap or pairs: use two sets of the cards face down. Children turn over two cards; if the totals match, they keep the pair and say the double fact aloud, for example 'double 3 is 6'.
- Continuous provision: leave the cards near the maths area with loose parts (pebbles, shells, bottle tops) so children can copy the pattern on each card independently during child-initiated play.

