

Pairs cards 1 to 10: odd or even?

This set of 10 picture cards shows counters from 1 to 10 arranged in pairs, so children can see at a glance whether every counter has a partner (even) or one is left without a partner (odd). Use the cards as a shared visual during carpet time and continuous provision across the unit, to build odd and even, doubles, and sharing fairly, towards the Early Learning Goal on patterns within numbers to 10.

How to use

- Session 1 carpet time: hold up one card at a time in order from 1 to 10. Children stand in matching pairs (or link hands in twos) to make the same arrangement, then say together 'everyone has a partner' or 'one person is left out' before naming the amount as odd or even.
- Session 1 continuous provision: peg the 10 cards along a washing line. Children match real objects (conkers, shells, teddies) into pairs underneath each card and post a counter into an 'odd' hoop or 'even' hoop to sort the cards.
- Session 2 doubles: set out cards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 next to cards 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Children build the smaller amount with their own counters, push the counters together to make 'the same again', then find the card that shows what they have made, saying 'double 2 is 4'.
- Session 3 sharing fairly: two children sit facing each other. The practitioner shows a card and the children share that many real objects between themselves one at a time, checking their own share against the pairs on the card, and saying what is left over for the cards showing 3, 5, 7 or 9.
- Session 4 odd and even hunt: hide the cards around the outdoor area or role-play corner. Children bring back a card they find and sort it onto an 'odd' mat or 'even' mat, explaining their choice by pointing to the pairs on the card.
- For children with SEND or learning English, pair the cards with the matching number of real objects so children can touch and move each counter while repeating the same short phrase each time, such as 'has a partner' or 'one left over', rather than relying on the picture alone.



