

## Helping Your Child with Number Bonds to 20

### Key points

- Number bonds are pairs of numbers that add up to a specific total, such as 12 and 8 making 20.
- Learning these pairs helps children move away from counting on their fingers and towards quicker mental maths.
- Many children find bonds to 20 trickier than bonds to 10, which is a normal part of their learning journey.
- A helpful technique is 'bridging', where children use the number 10 as a stepping stone to find the total.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and the way they are taught may vary between different schools.

### Things to try at home

- Play a quick game of 'I say 14, you say...' and let your child shout out the number needed to make 20.
- Use a ten frame (a grid of ten squares) or a number line to visually show how to jump to 10 first, then the rest of the way.
- Spot number pairs in the real world, like counting out 20 pieces of fruit or buttons in small groups.
- Keep activities short and playful so that maths feels like a game rather than a chore.

### Find out more

- Your child's class teacher, who can share the specific methods used in their classroom.
- The GOV.UK website for official information on the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 (children aged 5 to 7).