

Doubling and Halving: Helping Your Child with Maths

Key points

- Doubling is adding the same number to itself, while halving is splitting a number into two equal groups.
- These skills are linked to number bonds, which are pairs of numbers that add up to a total, such as 4 and 4 making 8.
- Learning these patterns helps children understand addition and division without having to memorise every single fact.
- Doubling and halving up to 20 provides a helpful foundation for when children start learning their times tables later on.
- Some children may confuse 'half of' with 'half as many', so using visual aids can help clear up any mix-ups.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and you can ask your child's teacher for the specific methods used in their classroom.

Things to try at home

- Use pairs of socks or shoes to show how doubling two groups of the same size makes a total.
- Share a snack, like grapes or crackers, into two equal piles to practice halving in a tasty way.
- Play a quick game of 'I double it, you halve it' using small numbers while you are in the car or walking to school.
- Use a mirror to show how one object becomes two, helping your child visualise the concept of doubling.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for National Curriculum guidance
- The school's maths lead or headteacher