

Helping Your Child Read Simple Bar Charts and Pictograms

Key points

- In Year 1, children learn to group information using tally marks, which are small lines used to count things quickly.
- A pictogram is a simple chart that uses pictures or symbols to show how many of something there are.
- A bar chart uses coloured blocks or bars to show the same information, making it easy to see which group is the biggest or smallest.
- Children learn to use words like 'most', 'least', 'total', and 'difference' to describe what they see in a chart.
- The goal is to help children see how turning a list of counts into a picture helps us answer questions more quickly.
- Every school may teach these skills in a slightly different order, so feel free to ask your child's teacher for more detail.

Things to try at home

- Count different coloured cars or birds in the garden and draw a quick picture for each one to make a simple pictogram.
- Ask your child which fruit they prefer from a small selection and use blocks or Lego to build a 'bar chart' of the results.
- Look at a weather chart together and ask playful questions like, 'Which day had the most sunshine?'

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for the National Curriculum in England