



27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Message to parents

I hope you and your families are all well. Recently I sent you some information about a program we use called 2Simple. I have been having a few problems accessing certain things on the site, so don't worry if you haven't been able to use the site. Instead, you should have received an email providing you with an email address specifically for Nursery. This is for the children to send photos and messages to show some of the things that they have been doing at home. If you want to share anything with us please send to [nursery@coleridgeprimary.net](mailto:nursery@coleridgeprimary.net). I can't wait to see what the children have been doing.

This week, I wanted to send you a couple of simple tips on how to teach number to 3 and 4 year olds, without them realising they are 'learning.' The most beneficial way to teach and model counting and number is through their own play, which is when their brain is most engaged. You don't have to have specific learning times sat at a table, just spend short blocks playing with your child, following their lead. Look for opportunities to count, such as if they are playing with their cars or dinosaurs, say that you need a quantity to play the game, then get your child to count for you. Encourage counting in their daily routines for example counting snacks; how many blueberries do they want for their breakfast/snack? Encourage children to press the numbers on the TV remote. Count stairs (if you have them), provide egg boxes, muffin trays to count objects like stones into. If they are ready, then start combining two groups of objects or adding 1 more.

There are 5 counting principles of early number that a child needs to understand and be confident in, in order for them to move forward. All children are at very different stages, so don't worry if your child isn't doing all of these yet. Once they are confident with these, other concepts will be easier to grasp. The 5 principles are:

1. The ability to recite numbers in order.
2. To count each object one by one without skipping.
3. To recognise that the last number they say is how many objects there are in a set.
4. To understand objects can be counted in any order as long as they are only counted once, such as biscuits on a plate.
5. To be able to count non-physical things such as claps, steps, jumps.

It's important we don't rush children at this age and miss out these important steps. Remember to look for those teachable maths moments when your child is most engaged during their play or when cooking, being creative, playing games and whilst engaged in their daily routines. Children are natural explorers and problem solvers, therefore it is important that they have the opportunities to play and explore by themselves. I'm sure whatever you are managing to do is more than good enough, the most important thing is that they are happy.

## Useful Websites and Articles

Numberblocks (which I'm sure you all know) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>  
A great article about play. - [https://www.naeyc.org/system/files/mib-august-2018\\_0.pdf](https://www.naeyc.org/system/files/mib-august-2018_0.pdf)

Best wishes  
Mrs Goodey

**Headteacher Leon Choueke**