















Mental Agility Activity Sheet 1

Addition and Subtraction

This is the indigo part of the Rainbow of Numeracy Skills. Choose any task to 'have a go' at from the grid, 1 chili means it is a mild challenge. If you feel you are getting there why not try a spicy or 2 chili challenge. If you really want to challenge yourself, try a 3 chili, or hot challenge. If you come up with your own challenge you can add it to the grid. You can either colour in the chilies or the block on the grid, or tick to show your teacher what you have chosen to work on.

Remember to choose how you want to practice the skill from Say, Write, Make, Do: e.g.

- Say aloud, sing songs
- Write the numbers out e.g. 4, 5, 6... use chalk, paint or any other way of recording including digital technology
- Draw items e.g. tally marks, pairs of socks, make posters or story books
- Count using items e.g. screws, cutlery, coins, pens...

<p>Place out x number of counters or objects. Ask how many are there? Remember to touch or move each item when counting.</p> 	<p>Place out a group of toys in a game. Ask the child to rescue x number of toys and move them. Repeat until all of the toys have been moved.</p> 	<p>Choose a specific number to focus on (vary depending on child's confidence). Clap, tap, draw this number in as many different ways as you can think of. Vary the number daily.</p> 	<p>Place out x number of objects/counters. Demonstrate counting them forwards and backwards. Encourage the child to join in with counting. Vary the number depending on confidence.</p> 
<p>Place out two groups of objects. How many in this group? How many in the other group? How many altogether?</p> 	<p>Play 'What is the time Mr Wolf?' encouraging children to count their steps forward.</p> 	<p>Create dot cards or ladybird dot cards. Children play snap together, encouraging each other to count the number of dots or spots on each others' cards.</p> 	<p>Number joke. Child chooses a number and then lays out that number of counters/objects. Child says what number they chose and partner must decide whether they have used the right number of played a 'joke'.</p> 
<p>Encourage children to collect natural materials outdoors i.e. rocks, sticks, leaves etc. and then count their collection.</p> 	<p>Ask children to hold up two fingers on each hand. Count with them to four. Emphasise so 2+2 is 4. Repeat with numbers up to 10.</p> 	<p>Ask children to recognize doubles patterns on dominoes. 'There are three on each side. How many all together?'</p> 	<p>Using a pair of teddies or toys lay out things that they may need i.e. a pencil, ruler, snack etc. Ask how many pencils are there all together?</p> 
<p>Place a row of x objects. Show that row and count. Screen the row and add on y more. Encourage the child to count on from the first number.</p> 	<p>Place out two rows of objects, count both rows and then screen the second. Encourage the child to count on including the screened objects. Repeat screening both rows.</p> 	<p>Place hand behind head and raise x number of fingers on each hand. Bring hands in front and count fingers. 'How many all together?' Raise another finger, 'how many now?'</p> 