



Maths – Home Guide



Subitising

Subitising is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. This only works with small groups of numbers, as we can only subitise up to 5 things.



Fingers also provide subitisable images for numbers, with the added advantage that they are embodied in muscle memory. Showing all-at-once finger numbers is the key skill.



Maths Glossary

Subitising: to identify the number of things in a set simply by quickly looking at them

Number: symbols used to represent quantity

Digit: a symbol used to write a numeral e.g 2 is a 1-digit number, 12 is a 2-digit number

Top Tip – Play games with fingers, where children are asked to show a small number of fingers all at once, such as “Show me nine fingers.”

Ideas for supporting Subitising at home



What is subitising?



Ladybird game

Encourage the skill of perceptual subitising to five or six by playing games that involve one dice, such as snakes and ladders. Encourage children to say the number shown on the dice, without counting.