

Early Years Maths progression

Maths area	3 to 4 year old (F1)	Reception (F2)
Number	Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually. ('subitising'). Recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5. Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total. Show 'finger numbers' up to 5 Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.	Count objects, actions and sounds. Subitise. Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. Count beyond ten. Compare numbers. Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers. Explore the composition of numbers to 10. Early Learning Goals: Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5. Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as.
Calculation – addition and subtraction Calculation – multiplication and division	Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs', etc. Extend and create ABAB	Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–5 and some to 10. Early Learning Goals: Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. Continue, copy and create repeating patterns. Early Learning Goals: Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be
Measure	patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using	Compare length, weight and capacity.



Early Years Maths progression

	words such as 'first', 'then' Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity.	
Shape	Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof, etc. Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle, etc Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'.	Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills. Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.
Position and direction	Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'. Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing.	