

## **Maths Tips for Parents of Junior Infants - Numbers 1 - 10**

### **1. Count Forwards**

- Count forwards 1 – 10. Count forwards from different starting numbers e.g. 3 – 7, 6 – 10.
- Take turns with your child to count forwards 1 – 10.
- Say a number and ask your child what number comes after a given number e.g. what number comes after 6.

### **2. Count Backwards**

- Count backwards 10 – 1. Count backwards from different starting numbers e.g. 10 – 5, 8 – 4.
- Take turns with your child to count backwards 10 – 1.
- Say a number and ask your child what number comes before a given number e.g. what number comes before 8.

### **3. Numerals**

Written Numbers: - Call out random numbers 1 – 5 ask your child to write them down. Check the number formation.

- Draw a three square frame write a number in the middle e.g. 4 and ask your child to write the number before and the number after. Ask them to point and say the numbers forwards and backwards.

Identification: - Show your child number cards in random order 1 – 5. Ask what number is this?

- Ask your child to point to a number you call out e.g. point to the number 3.

Sequencing: Show number cards 1 – 5. Mix the cards up ask your child to sequence the numbers from the smallest to the largest (left to right). Ask them to point and say the numbers forwards/backwards.

- When the numbers are sequenced cover one or two of them and ask your child what numbers are covered?

### **4. Finger Patterns 1 – 5**

- Ask your child to show you numbers 1 – 5 using their fingers.
- Ask your child the different ways of making numbers 2 – 5 using two hands e.g. ask them to show you all the ways to make 4 on the fingers (3+1, 2+2, 4+0).
- At first your child may raise their fingers one at a time and then progress to throwing up all the fingers at the same time.

## **5. Count Items 1 – 10**

- Count items e.g. counters in a set 1 – 5. Extend to 6 – 10.
- Match numbers to sets 1 – 5 e.g. match the number 5 to a set of 5 objects or counters. Match sets to numbers.
- Partition sets within 5. Use objects or counters, draw two circles, a butterfly with two wings and explore the variety of ways of making 5 e.g. 3 and 2, 2 and 3, 4 and 1, 1 and 4, 5 and 0, 0 and 5. Put 3 counters into one of the circles and 2 counters into the other circle. Put 4 counters onto one of the butterfly wings and 1 counter onto the other wing.

## **6. Count Sounds and Movements**

- Ask your child to count the sequences of sounds and movements 1 – 5 and when confident then extend to 6 – 10 e.g. clap hands, tap feet or a pen, head nod, ball bounce. Ask your child to count the claps, taps you have made.
- Ask your child to count the sequences of sounds and movements using their fingers to count.

## **7. Spatial Patterns**

- Use dice or domino pattern cards 1 – 6 and ask your child to quickly tell you what pattern they see (you want them to recognise the patterns 1 – 6 without having to count).
- Match the dice or domino pattern cards 1 - 6 with a sound/movement. For example, show a 3 pattern on a dice or domino card ask your child to clap or tap the number they see or make the number pattern in the air with their finger.

## **Notes:**

- Practice the forward counting one day and the next day practice backward counting.
- Identify the number 'after' one day and the number 'before' on another day as some children can get confused.
- Repeating the activities is important as it will increase your child's confidence.

