

Numbers, numbers everywhere

Numbers are all around us – everywhere we go we are likely to see or use numbers in one way or another. Pointing out and talking about numbers with children helps them to recognise how numbers can be shown as both words (e.g. one, two) and symbols (e.g. 1, 2). They also come to understand the different ways that numbers can be used – and how important they are!



Words, symbols and more!

Numbers can be written as both words:

- *six, two, fourteen*

and symbols:

- *6, 2, 14*

There are other ways to show numbers too:



- using hands and fingers – *two hands = 10!*
- making tally marks – *### || = 7*
- clapping
- dots on a dice



You can help your child recognise the different ways that numbers can be represented by encouraging them to notice and talk about all the different numbers that are around them.

**Numbers can be represented in
many different ways.**

Finding numbers

Numbers are all around us – a lot of the time we see and use them without really thinking about them very much.

Where have you seen and used numbers today?

At home

- a clock or watch
- TV remote control
- food packets
- cooker or microwave
- page numbers in books
- magazines and newspapers
- computer keyboard or phone



Out and about

- car number plates
- a bus and bus ticket
- front doors of houses
- road signs
- shop windows
- lamp posts or drain covers
- swimming pool entry times

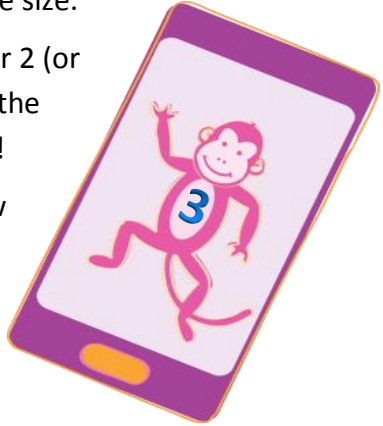
Numbers are everywhere!

My number!

Children sometimes have favourite numbers that are especially important to them. They are likely to be personal to your child – perhaps their age, door number or shoe size.

Your child will love to find **their** number 2 (or 3 or 4!) on their birthday card, around the house or when they are out and about!

Try going on a number hunt to see how many places you can find your child's special number. Take photos of all the places you find their number and make a picture e-book on your phone, tablet or computer!



Useful numbers

Noticing, using and talking about numbers with your child in lots of different practical ways will help them to see that numbers are important and can be used to solve everyday problems.

Here are a few ideas:

- finding a telephone number
- catching the right bus or checking the timetable
- finding a channel number on the TV remote control
- cooking – following recipes and measuring ingredients





- choosing birthday cards (with numbers on!)
- checking the time of the next collection on the post box
- buying shoes or clothes – looking at labels to get the right sizes
- checking ticket numbers when waiting in a queue
- shopping for food:
 - buying the right amount
 - checking prices
 - finding the right aisle in the supermarket
 - counting out the right money and checking the change
- looking for junction 6 on the M3
- finding the right stop or platform number for a bus or train

The more children see you use numbers, the more they will want to learn about numbers and counting.

