

Number Rhymes

Counting down from, and up to, 10

Saying how many there are altogether



Children often enjoy singing and saying rhymes and telling familiar stories.

Adults could share the song 'Ten Green Bottles' in order to involve the children in singing and counting.

The Activity

Provide a collection of ten green bottles, partly filled with sand. Stand them in a row for all the children to see. Sing the song and act it out.

Encouraging mathematical thinking and reasoning:

Describing

What is happening to the number of bottles each time one falls?

Reasoning

Two bottles have fallen off the wall. How many are there left? How do you know that? What if you count the bottles on the wall and those that have fallen off? Can you see a pattern?

Opening Out

What if two fell off at once?

Imagine how many bottles there will be on the wall if three have fallen off.

What if we add five more bottles, how many would there be then?

Recording

Can you show on your fingers how many there are/how many will be left?

Can you find the numeral, dotty card or Numicon to match the number left?

Can you draw a picture/make a mark, to show me how many bottles there are on the wall now?

The Mathematical Journey

Counting and cardinality

- using number words and language about counting e.g. none, zero, next door number/ number neighbour
- cardinality: saying how many there are altogether
- showing on fingers how many there are

Linking symbols and amounts:

- finding numerals to match the number left

Subtracting

- counting them all to find out how many are left
- using the language of subtraction: saying how many are left
- knowing that one less is the next number counting backwards e.g. predicting the next number before the next bottle falls

Describing position

- using positional language e.g. on, off, next to, before, after, left, right

Development and Variation

If two fall off at once, children may realise they can count back to subtract: you could support this with a number line. Children could show with fingers how many there will be.

Counting up and down from a given number in the context of the number of children in the group e.g. ten children and two are away today so there are eight here.

Counting sets and collections of objects and adding or removing some by hiding objects under a cloth or in a bag.

Story, rhyme and song links

Five Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day , Ten Fat Sausages

Resources

Green plastic bottles partly filled with sand or water to weigh them down

Numerals, dotty cards, Numicon

Whiteboards and pens

Camera or video camera for recording



nrich.maths.org/early-years
© University of Cambridge

