



Be the best you can be, every day.

Reception - Autumn 1

I can subitise to 5

Subitising is saying how many you see without counting.

Practical Activities

Here are some activities that you can try at home to develop your child's subitising skills:

- Quickly reveal small quantities of objects under a series of pots. The children must 'splat' the matching dot pattern or number plate with their hand or a fly swatter as fast as they can.
- Roll a dice and ask your child to quickly say how many spots they can see, without counting.
- Drop a large collection of small objects (e.g. marbles) into a contained space (e.g. a tray). Encourage the children to select a subitising card for 1, 2 or 3 and find where the objects have fallen in 1s, 2s or 3s.
- Fingers 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 here, not counting fingers one at a time.
- Subitising games can involve less common arrangements of numbers of objects. Games that involve revealing hidden objects will prompt young children to say how many they see. One game involves upturned dishes hiding three, four and five objects, rapidly swapping them around and challenging children to keep track of the dish with four. When you stop and briefly lift the dish, children intuitively subitise the number revealed.
- **Number Talks:** Showing children 'quick images' and asking them how many they see is one way of developing subitising. An alternative way of developing conceptual subitising is to show children a number of dots and ask them to say how they see the number.