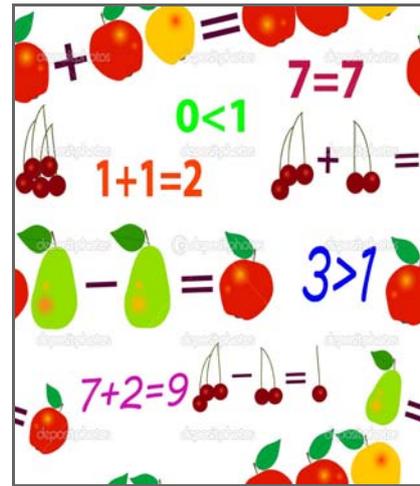


**Secret numbers** Write the numbers 0 to 20 on a sheet of paper. Ask your child secretly to choose a number on the paper. Then ask him / her some questions to find out what the secret number is e.g. Is it less than 10? Is it between 10 and 20? Does it have a 5 in it? He / she may answer only yes or no. Once you have guessed the number, it is your turn to choose a number. Your child asks the questions. For an easier game, use numbers up to 10. For a harder game, use only 5 questions, or use bigger numbers.

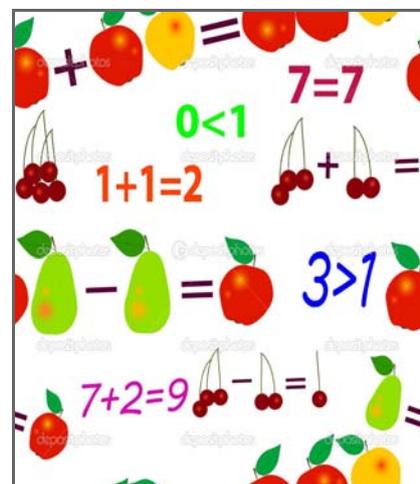
**Adding circles** For this game, you need a dice and pencil and paper. Each of you should draw four circles on your piece of paper. Write a different number between 2 and 12 in each circle. Roll the dice twice. Add the two numbers. If the total is one of the numbers in your circles then you may cross it out. The first person to cross out all four circles wins.

**Takings** For this game you will need a dice and a collection of small things such as Lego bricks, sticky shapes or dried pasta. You will also need pencil and paper. Take turns. Roll a dice. Take that number of pieces of pasta. Write down the number. Keep rolling the dice and taking that number of pieces of pasta. BUT, before you take them, you must write down your new total. You can only take your pieces of pasta if you are right. The first person to collect 20 objects wins! E.g. Sally has 7. She throws 4. She has to work out how many she will have now. She starts counting from seven: *eight, nine, ten, eleven*. She writes 11.

**Dice Game** You need a 1–6 dice, paper and pencil. Take turns. Choose a number between 1 and 10 and write it down. Throw the dice and say the dice number. Work out the difference between the chosen number and the dice number, e.g. if you wrote down a 2 and the dice shows 5, the difference is 3. You could also draw a number line to help your child to see the difference between the two numbers.



# Helping Your Year 1 Child with Number Work



**The following are some of the basic skills that will help your child with their Number Work:**

**Put the larger number in your head** When encouraging children to do mental arithmetic, teach them to put the largest number (of the two you are adding) in their head. Model this physically as you say it, e.g. if the addition is  $9 + 4$ , say: "Right, let's put the largest number in our heads, so that's nine." Then tap your head and say: "So we're putting nine in our heads and then counting on four." This clear, precise modelling will help them to learn this useful strategy. Once they have put the largest number 'in their head' they can then use their fingers to count on.

**Use tangible objects** Many children (more often boys) are kinaesthetic learners, which means they learn through doing. As children move tangible objects around it helps them comprehend the concept of numbers more deeply. You can use anything you want - buttons, pebbles, or, if you're struggling to get them enthused, something they're crazy about like cars or Lego.

**Look at number lines and 100 squares** At school, children in Key Stage 1 will be using number lines and 100 squares regularly. Depending on their learning style some will find it more beneficial than others, but it's certainly worth a try.

**Draw pictures** This works first of all because many children enjoy drawing and secondly because it gives a physical representation of the addition. Urge your child to keep the drawings small and basic (otherwise you'll be there all day!).

**Practise rapid recall** In Key Stage 1 learning number facts is a principal focus. For example, children are expected to learn number bonds to ten (e.g.  $7 + 3 = 10$ ,  $9 + 1 = 10$  etc.) Support your child by reciting the possible combinations together.

Also explain that you can always swap the number order around when it comes to addition, so if  $6 + 4 = 10$  so does  $4 + 6$

**Encourage adding in real life situations** The fundamental point of numeracy is that children (and the adults they'll grow to be) can use it in their everyday life. Giving them real-life opportunities to practise their addition skills also makes them feel grown up and boosts their self-esteem. So at the supermarket get them to put, for example, five oranges and four apples in your basket and ask them how many pieces of fruit you'll be buying. Similarly learning money basics when you're out and about can be a great incentive for getting their number brain working!

**Invent story sums** Devising and working through story sums is a crucial element of KS1 numeracy. Children can really enjoy this especially if you make the stories about something they have an interest in, e.g. using characters from their favourite book or TV programme, food they love or their school friends. A story sum might read as follows: There were seven cupcakes and six biscuits on a tray. How many treats were there altogether?

**Here are some games you might like to try:**

**Dicey Coins** For this game you need a dice and about twenty 10p coins. Take turns to roll the dice and take that number of 10p coins. Guess how much money this is. Then count aloud in tens to check, e.g. *saying ten, twenty, thirty, forty...* If you do this correctly you keep one of the 10p pieces. First person to collect £1 wins. Don't forget to give the coins back!

**Housey, Housey** When walking down the street with your child, look at house numbers. These will probably be following a pattern of either odd or even numbers. Can your child predict what number will be on the next house? Talk about the pattern.