

Everyday Mathematical Language in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The vocabulary children need to know by the end of the Reception Class

Counting and recognising numbers

COUNTING

Number; zero, one, two, three... to twenty and beyond; zero, ten, twenty... one hundred; none; how many...?

count; count (up); to count on (from, to); count back (from, to) count in ones, twos... tens... more; less; many; few; odd; even; every other; how many times? pattern; pair; guess; how many; estimate; nearly; close to; about the same as; just over; just under; too many; too few; enough; not enough

COMPARING AND ORDERING NUMBERS

the same number as; as many as

of two objects/amounts: greater; more; larger; bigger; less; fewer; smaller

of three or more objects/amounts: greatest, most; biggest; largest; least; fewest; smallest; one more; ten more; one less; ten less; compare; order; size; first, second, third...tenth last; last but one; before; after; next; between; above; below

ADDING AND SUBTRACTING

add; more; and make; sum; total; altogether; score; double; one more; two more; ten more... how many more to make... ? how many more is... than...? take (away); leave how many are left/left over? how many have gone? one less; two less... ten less... how many fewer is... than...? difference between is the same as

Problem Solving

REASONING ABOUT NUMBERS OR SHAPES

pattern; puzzle; answer; right; wrong; what could we try next? how did you work it out? count; sort; group; set; match; same; different; list

PROBLEMS INVOLVING 'REAL LIFE' OR MONEY

compare; double; half; halve; pair; count out; share out; left; left over money; coin; penny; pence; pound; price; cost; buy; sell; spend; spent; pay; change; dear; costs more; cheap; costs less; cheaper; costs the same as; how much...? how many...? total

Shape, Space and Measures

MEASURES (GENERAL)

measure; size; compare; guess; estimate; enough; not enough; too much; too little; too many; too few nearly; close to; about the same; just over; just under

LENGTH

length; width; height; depth; long; short; tall; high; low; wide; narrow; deep; shallow; thick; thin; longer; shorter; taller; higher... and so on; longest; shortest; tallest; highest... and so on far; near; close

MASS

weigh; weighs; balances; heavy/light; heavier/lighter; heaviest/lightest balance; scales; weight

CAPACITY

full; half full; empty; holds; container

TIME

time; days of the week: Monday, Tuesday... day; week; birthday; holiday; morning; afternoon; evening; night; bedtime; dinnertime; playtime; today; yesterday; tomorrow; before; after; next; last; now; soon; early; late; quick; quicker; quickest; quickly; slow; slower; slowest; slowly; old; older; oldest; new; newer; newest; takes longer; takes less time; hour; o'clock; clock; watch; hands EXPLORING PATTERNS, SHAPE AND SPACE

shape; pattern; flat; curved; straight; round; hollow; solid; corner; face; side; edge; end; sort; make; build; draw

3D SHAPES

cube; cuboid; pyramid; sphere; cone

2D SHAPES

circle; triangle; square; rectangle; star; pentagon; hexagon; oval

PATTERNS AND SYMMETRY

size; bigger; larger; smaller; symmetrical pattern; repeating pattern; match

POSITION, DIRECTION AND MOVEMENT

position; over; under; above; below; top; bottom; side on; in; outside; inside; around; in front; behind; front; back; before; after; beside; next to; opposite; apart; between; middle; edge; corner; direction; left; right; up; down; forwards; backwards; sideways; across; close; far; near; along; through to; from; towards; away from; movement; slide; roll; turn; stretch; bend