

Parent Guide



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What is this resource and how do I use it?

Once your child is in reception, you may hear them talk about number bonds. Number bonds are a key focus in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum that really come into play in reception. This parent guide demystifies number bonds for you and provides some ideas for supporting your child with their understanding of number bonds.

What is the focus of this resource?

Number Bonds

Maths

Activities for Home

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Our [Learning at Home: Number Bonds to 5 Activity Booklet](#) is great for supporting your child with their number bonds to five. You could also enjoy this [Learning at Home: Mermaids Number Bonds to 5 Game](#) to spend some quality playtime together while sneaking a little maths practice in!

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Number Bonds

Explained for Parents

What are number bonds?

Number bonds are pairs of numbers that are added together to make another number.
For example:



We often talk about number bonds of five and ten in early years. There are number bonds of two, three, four and so on too. Your child's school might refer to number bonds as number pairs or simply 'bonds to' a number.

Why are number bonds important?

Number bonds are brilliant for helping your child understand the composition of numbers (how numbers are made up) - this helps with their number sense. Knowing number bonds helps your child begin to solve simple addition and subtraction problems.

For example, if they know that 1 and 4 make 5, they may be able to quickly work out that 5 take away 4 will leave 1.

Knowing number bonds for numbers to ten will help your child work out and memorise number bonds to 20 and more as they progress through primary school.

As an adult, you probably use number bonds all the time without even realising it. You might know that if something costs you £17 and you pay with a £20 note that you will need £3 change without counting - this is using your number bonds! Helping your child develop this good understanding of number and number bonds will have lifelong benefits.

Examples of Number Bonds

We know this might seem obvious but it never hurts to have these written down to refer to! In reception, the number bonds of five are the ones your child will focus on first.

Number Bonds of Two

0 and 2 1 and 1

Number Bonds of Three

0 and 3 1 and 2

Number Bonds of Four

0 and 4 1 and 3 2 and 2

Number Bonds of Five

0 and 5 1 and 4 2 and 3

Number Bonds of Six

0 and 6 1 and 5 2 and 4 3 and 3

Number Bonds of Seven

0 and 7 1 and 6 2 and 5 3 and 4



Examples of Number Bonds

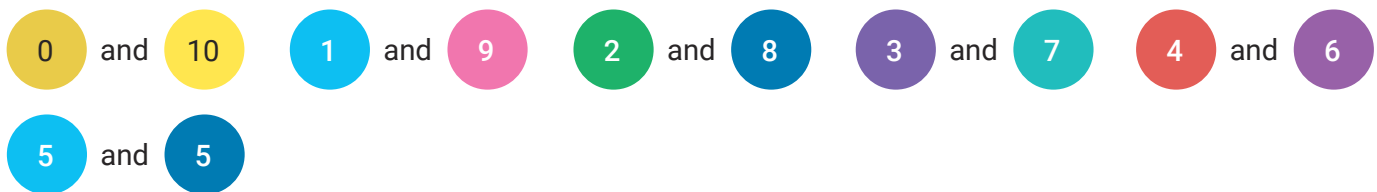
Number Bonds of Eight



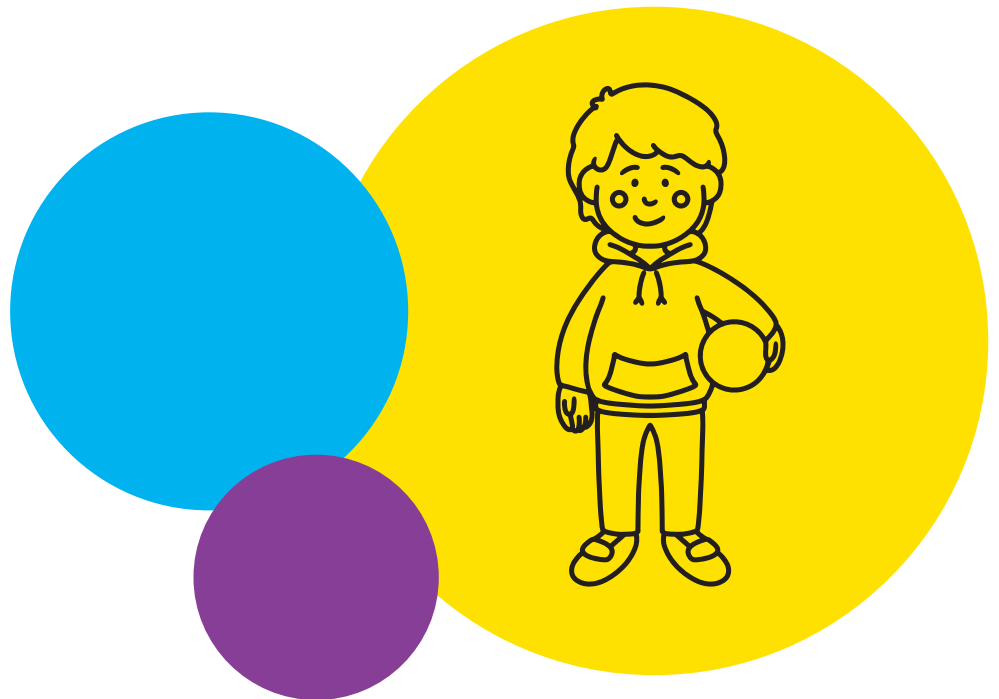
Number Bonds of Nine



Number Bonds of Ten



Remember to talk to your child about the fact that all the number bonds are reversible - so if 2 and 4 make 6, so do 4 and 2!





How to Support Your Child with Number Bonds at Home



Play Shops

Make a play shop at home using toys, play food, clothes, etc. Use pieces of paper or sticky notes to price the items between 1p and 5p to practise number bonds to five. Give your child five 1p coins. Encourage your child to count out the correct number of coins and work out what their correct change should be when they buy an item. Remember to reverse roles too so your child gets a chance to be the shopkeeper.

Board Games

Board games are great for some family time but there's no reason you can't make the most of the time together to practise some maths skills too! Twinkl Parents Hub has lots of themed board games specifically designed to help practise number bonds, like this **Learning at Home: Mermaids Number Bonds to 5 Game** and this **Learning at Home: Rainbows and Unicorns Number Bonds to 10 Game**.

Build Number Bonds into Daily Life

Try to get used to commenting on number bonds as you come across them in your daily routines, e.g. 'We had five minutes left to get ready. We've had three so we've only got two left!', 'I've done five buttons on your top, there are five still to do.' You can start to encourage your child to work these out too. For example, when getting cutlery out for dinner, say, 'I've got one fork here, how many more do I need for all four of us?'

Remember, the number bonds aren't just to five or ten - each number has number bonds as it's just different pairs of numbers that make up that number!

Vary the Activities

There are all sorts of games and activities you can do to support your child's understanding of numbers and number bonds. You could use this **Ice Cream Numbers Activity**, encouraging your child to match the numbers to make number bonds of ten. Give your child a five or ten frame they can access independently to help them work out problems. For more ideas, see our **Practical Games for Learning Number Bonds at Home**.

Disclaimer: We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.