

The Power of 10 in Early Years

Children must have mastered their numbers to 10 before moving on to bigger numbers. If a child learns rules and patterns with numbers to 10 and have truly mastered this then they should be able to apply these taught skills to numbers beyond 10.

$$3 + 2 = 5$$

$$6 + \square = 8$$

$$\square + 7 = 9$$

$$9 = \square + 7$$

$$7 - \square = 4$$

$$6 = \square - 7$$

$$4 + \square = 9 - \square$$

$$2 + 2 + 2 = \square \times \square$$

$$6 = \square - 3$$

$$\square + \square + 2 = 9$$

With just numbers up to 10 you can explore different ways to stretch and challenge the children, using...

- Balancing questions
- Missing numbers
- Inverse operations
- Multiplication
- Repeated addition

Encourage children to reason, explain and justify their answers.

- Convince me...
- Show me how you know that...
- Explain your reasoning...
- What's the same? What's different?

This must be modelled to the children - train them up to use the right vocabulary and language.

**Make reference to the calculation guidance.*

