

Counting Activities

Pupils should...

- **count forwards**
- **count backwards**
- **count forwards and backwards from different starting points**

(adapted from *Ready Set Go Maths* – p. 36 *PDST Mental Maths Handbook + and -*)

- **Rhythm counting** - use actions such as: clapping, slapping, tapping. Pupils chant number words in time with the rhythm.
- **Counting apple/ pendulum** - pupils chant numbers in time to a swinging apple (weight attached to a long string). This can also be used for counting quantities/sets of objects.
- **The Sound of a Number Game:** Teacher drops cubes into a tin. The children count silently in their head. To extend the activity teacher takes out some cubes and adds in others after the children count and keep track.

- **Class number line (Pegs on a line)** - Pupils count forwards/backwards while looking at each number on the number line. Teacher points to a number and pupils say that number together. They say the number before/ after a given number. Teacher may turn one number around so pupils can tell (individually) what the hidden number is and explain their thinking.
- **Show me** - Teacher shows flash cards with different numbers of objects. Pupils count silently and show the corresponding number using digit cards.
- **Pass the Teddy** - Pupils stand in a circle. As the teddy is passed around the circle pupils say the next number or can say “I am one, I pass it to two” etc.
- **Count Around** - Pupils stand in a circle and count around, each child saying the next number in the sequence. They may start counting at one and the pupil who says number 12 for example sits down. The counting keeps going until only one child is standing.
- **Guess my number** - Teacher shows the children a section of a digit on a card or the board and gets them to guess what the number is. He or she asks them to justify their answer.

(PDST Mental Maths Handbook + and – p. 36 - 38)

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9