

Activities for Home

6

Dear Families,

At school we are learning about the number 6. We are learning about the different ways that 6 can be made up from smaller numbers. Here are some simple activities that you can do at home to support your child's learning. At this stage we are not expecting children to remember all of the number pairs that make 6, though they will start to remember some. This is about having lots of experience of 'six-ness', and playing around with splitting up 6 and putting the parts back together. Together you will find that 6 can be made up from:



Finding 6 in everyday life

Look out for opportunities to make and break 6 in everyday life. For example, look at a box of eggs and talk about whether it is full or whether some eggs have been eaten. "There were 6 eggs when we bought them. Then we ate 2. Now there are 4 left." If the box is full you could play with taking some out and then putting them back in, talking about what is happening as you go. "Here we have 6 eggs, then we take 3 eggs out. Now there are 3 eggs left. Now let's put them back in. We have 6 again." Also, look out for opportunities to put things in sixes (even if you don't need to!). Cut up a carrot into 6 pieces, or give your child 6 raisins. You could lay out the pieces on the plate in a 6 dice pattern, or a different 6 pattern and see if your child can see how many pieces there are without counting.

Make 6

Show different ways to make 6 on your hands (e.g., 3 fingers on one hand and 3 on the other). Ask your child to copy the finger arrangement you have chosen. (This helps develop your child's fine motor coordination as well.) As your child gets more confident at remembering some of the ways to make 6, they can show 6 on their fingers and you can copy them.

Simon Says

Play "Simon Says" with 6 actions each time (such as folding arms, patting head, blinking, hopping). When you say, "Simon says jump 6 times," your child follows the instructions. As they do each action 6 times you can both count together. But if you just say, "Jump 6 times," your child has to remember not to do it. Then give them a turn to give you instructions. Will they catch you out?

Fill the box

You will need a dice for this game, or 6 small pieces of paper with a number from 1 – 6 written on each. On a sheet of paper, draw out a 3 x 3 grid (9 boxes). Your aim is to 'win' a box by putting 6 dots in it. Throw the dice (or choose a small piece of paper). Put that number of dots in a box. For example, if you throw 3, put 3 dots in any box you choose. Now it is the other person's turn. If they throw a 3, they can complete that box and win it, if not they choose where to put their dots. For each throw you can either add to a box (if there is space), or start dotting a new box. A throw of 6 wins a box straight away. Have a colour each and colour the boxes you win as you go. Who will win more boxes?

Find me 6

Choose 6 items (e.g., 6 toy trains, 6 building blocks) and hide them around the room. Your child needs to find each one and bring it to you. Each time discuss how many are left. "You've found 3 now. 3 more to go!" You could also play this as "Kim's Game" with 6 different small items hidden under a cloth. Your child lifts the cloth and looks at them for 1 minute, then covers them again. How many can they remember? Discuss how many they still need to think of. "You've remembered 4. Just 2 more to try to think of." Don't forget to give your child a turn to be the one hiding the items in both games as well! Your child can refer back to the number pairs at the top of this sheet to help see how many more there are to find.