

Pebble numerals- for children aged 3+

Using pebbles to learn about numerals



This is an activity that can be used over a number of days and weeks and will involve many different skills

Day 1

Go for a walk whilst still social distancing and see how many flattish pebbles you can collect on the way.

Bring them home and together with your child wash the pebbles in warm soapy water and dry them

Day 2

Encourage your child to sort the pebbles- with the larger ones together in one pile and the smaller in another. In doing so your child is engaging thinking skills, problem solving and learning about the concepts of large and small

Day 3

Your child can paint the larger flatter pebbles and leave them on the side to dry. Let your child choose the colours to use allowing them to develop self-esteem and promoting creativity. Once the pebbles are dry paint a numeral from 1-10 on each of ten pebbles.

Day 4 onwards

These pebbles with numerals can be used in a variety of way all with different learning outcomes

- Lay the pebbles in a line with number one at the top and ten at the bottom, creating a number line. Encourage your child to find one object in your home, for example one pencil and lay it next to the

numeral 1. Then ask for two crayons and lay them next to the number two etc. This activity will help children to associate numerals with amounts.

Help your child for the first few times and then see if they can start to recognise the names of the numerals

- If you have the resources at home create a small loose parts box like the one below. You can fill each section with something different such as buttons, lolly sticks, beads, match sticks etc.



You can encourage your child to use objects from this box to place next to your pebble numerals

- Sing number songs such as Five speckled Frogs, Five little ducks etc and encourage your child to hold the appropriate pebble associated with the number you are signing about
- Mix the numbered pebbles and ask your child to put them in the correct order once they are more familiar with them

All of the above activities can be repeated as many times as you like over a period of time each time your child will become more familiar and confident with counting, matching and recognising the numeral, all important skills in early mathematics