Counting in twos, fives and tens

Over the next few days/weeks your child will be learning about counting in twos, fives and tens as well as doing work using the hundred square.

Game: Yo-yo counting

Swing a yo-yo slowly in front of your child. If you don't have a yo-yo, tie a beanbag or ball of paper to a piece of string and swing it gently like a pendulum. Ask your child to count forwards in twos in time with the yo-yo swings, beginning at 2. When your child is confident with this activity, invite him/her to count forwards in twos beginning at different numbers (e.g. 1, 8, 22) again in time with the yo-yo swings. At various points, invite your child to count backwards in twos from different points, e.g. 6, 11, 24, etc. Do a similar activity when counting in fives and tens.

Listen and count

Drop some 2c coins into a tin. Ask your child to count silently in twos in his/her head. For example, drop six 2c coins into a tin. Have your child listen and count in twos as each coin is dropped into the tin. Then invite your child to say what number s/he is at. In this example, your child should be at the number 12 in his/her head. Similar activities counting in fives and tens can also be carried out.

Taking turns

Ask your child to take turns with you when counting in twos from 0 to 50. You can start by saying 0 (zero). Your child says 2, you say 4, and so on up to 20/30/40/50. Tell your child that you will repeat the activity but that this time you will start at 20 and count back to zero. Have your child start this time at 20. Make the game more difficult by starting at 30/40 or 50.

Body parts

Ask your child to observe the other members of the household and to count the eyes/ears/hands/feet in twos.

Fingers and toes

Ask your child to look at both yours and his/her hands and feet. Ask him/her to count the fingers (thumbs included!) and toes in fives. Other members of the family can also be included.

Money! Money!

Collect a number of 2c, 5c and 10c coins – children learn more quickly when using real coins! Start with 2c coins. Ask your child to place the coins on the table and to count them. Do the same for 5c and 10c coins.

The hundred square

Make a hundred square of your own or ask your child to make one, as on page 128 of the pupil's book. Ask your child to write all the numbers in the correct boxes. Then ask him/her to investigate all the numbers on the hundred square and write down a list of the numbers whose digits add up to nine. For example: 9, 81, 90, 72, 63, 54, 45, 36, 27, 18.

Variation 1: Find all the numbers whose digits add to 10, 11, etc.

Variation 2: Find all the numbers with the digit 1/2/3, etc. in them.

Variation 3: Find palindromes (numbers that read the same forwards and backwards). For example: 88, 66, 44, etc.

Hide and seek!

Place the hundred square on the table. Cover any number you wish on the hundred square with a counter/cube as your child looks away. Have your child work out which number is covered.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

hundred square