

You Said: We Did

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent stay and play sessions. The purpose of these sessions were to share the importance of early level maths skills and explore what mathematics looks like in early years.

We issued a questionnaire pre and post stay and play, with the results as follows.

Question	Pre Stay and Play		Post Stay and Play	
Do you engage with mathematical concepts every day?	Not at all	4%	Not at all	0%
	Rarely	7%	Rarely	3%
	Sometimes	41%	Sometimes	42%
	Often	48%	Often	55%
On a scale of 1-10 with 1 being not at all and 10 being very confident how would you rate yourself on the following question? How confident are you at helping your child develop mathematical concepts and numeracy skills?	7.52 average rating		8.32 average rating	
On a scale of 1-10 with 1 being not at all and 10 being all the time how would you rate yourself on the following question? I engage in developing my child's mathematical concepts and numeracy skills at home?	7.93 average rating		8.55 average rating	

Many children can count to 10 and although this does demonstrate an ability to recite numbers it does not mean they understand numbers.

- Can they count from any given number?
- Can they collect a quantity of items?
- Can they recognise numbers in different formats, e.g. dots?
- Can they identify the number before, the number after, or a missing number?

Counting without the understanding of numbers is a child memorising a sequence, like they would remember the words to a song. We refer to this as rote learning.

The key focus is an understanding of the concepts, more, less and the same and an appreciation of how these are related.

Counting is an important component of number and the early learning operations. However, there is a distinction between counting by rote and counting with understanding.

Question	Pre Stay and Play		Post Stay and Play	
My child can count to 10, therefore they understand numbers.	Agree	59%	Agree	39%
	Disagree	22%	Disagree	48%
	Not Sure	19%	Not Sure	13%

Following our recent stay and play sessions 94% of parents who completed the questionnaire agreed that the sessions increased awareness of maths in everyday activities with the remaining 6% stating not sure.

Additional Comments/Feedback.

- It shows that there are different types of maths and how we use them in everyday life, also shows the sequence of how we learn maths in different ways.
- Don't realise how much you use maths in and around the house.
- Made me aware of more ways to exercise numbers rather than just counting to 10.
- I now understand the way the ELCC cover more than just recognising numbers.
- I gained a greater understanding of how I can help make maths part of our day with play. Excellent ideas and loved seeing all the stations.
- Everything was just so good.

Following on from the questionnaires, feedback and the stay and play sessions we will continue to support children with their numeracy and maths skills by;

- Continuing to maintain positive relationships with families to share learning and provide a positive home/nursery link.
- Offer training opportunities to enable staff to continually develop their professional knowledge, skills and experience.

Our nursery improvement priority for 2022/23 is.

- All children aged 3-5 will be supported with developing their numeracy skills and over 75% will be observed to be making progress by June 2023.