Gusford Primary School

Maths glossary

Your Early Years team at Gusford have produced this leaflet to give you guidance with maths vocabulary.

Reciting
Reciting refers to orally rehearsing the order of numbers. For example 1,2,3,4,5,6,78,9,10.

Counting
Counting refers to the counting of objects or actions. Children will often point to the object, say the corresponding number, stop and say the total.

Irregular arrangement
This refers to the position of items. They are often not laid in a line.

Shape properties
Shape properties refers to the vocabulary needed to describe 2D/3D shapes.

2D shapes are flat shapes, with sides or corners.
3D shapes are solid shapes, with vertices, edges or faces.

Length
The children are encouraged to use the following vocabulary:
Long, short, longer than, shorter than, longest, shortest.

Height
The children are encouraged to use the following vocabulary:
Tall, short, taller than, shorter than, tallest, shortest.

Weight
The children are encouraged to use the following vocabulary:
Heavy, light, heaviest, lightest, lighter than, heavier than.

Money
The children are encouraged to use the following vocabulary:
Pence, penny, pound.

Capacity
The children are encouraged to use the following vocabulary:
Full, empty, half full, half empty, nearly empty, nearly full.

Addition
Addition refers to the process of adding 2 groups together. We also encourage other vocaublary including add and plus.

Counting on
This refers to recalling the amount in the first group and then to count on.

Subtraction
Subtraction refers to the process of subtracting 2 groups. We also encourage other vocaublary including subtract and takeaway.

Counting back
This refers to counting back from the first number.

Number sentence
This refers to the method of writing addition/ subtraction number problems e.g. 4+5=9.

Doubling
This refers to adding the same amounts together e.g. 4+4 or 8+8. We encourage the childre to say 'double 4 equals 8.'

Halving
This refers to halvng an amount e.g. 4 divided by 2 equals 2. We encourage the children to say 'half of 4 is 2.'

Repeating patterns
This refers to a pattern using a repetitive sequence:
Colours e.g. red green red green.
Shapes e.g. square circle square circle.

Positional language
We encourage the children to understand the following vocaublary:
In, on, under, behind, in front, next to, above, between.

If you have further questions then please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you,
The Early Years Team