



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 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.

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 vocabulary 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 vocabulary 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 children to say 'double 4 equals 8.'

Halving

This refers to halving 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 vocabulary:

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