

1. Dice

Use a 'dotted' dice and write the numbers 1 to 6 on a sheet of paper (or use the numbered animals). Throw the dice. Can your child guess how many dots there are? Check by counting. Ask your child which number on the paper matches the dots on the dice.

2. One more or less Game

For this game you need a dice, a coin and some building blocks or Lego bricks. Take turns to roll the dice. Build a tower with that number of blocks or bricks. Then toss the coin. Heads means take one brick off. Tails means add one on. If you can guess how many bricks there will be after this, you keep them! The first to collect 20 bricks or more wins!

3. Counting and ordering to 20

Practise counting. Start at 5, and count on from there to 11. Start at 9, count back from there to zero. Choose a different starting number each time. Ask children to make their own number line, or reorder numbers correctly.

4. Sorting, patterns, size

Ask your child to help you sort a food cupboard out, putting heavier items on the lower shelf and lighter items on an upper shelf. Using the fruit bowl, I have 3 apples and 2 bananas, how much fruit do we have? There were 6 carrots on your plate, how many are there now? Can you use the vegetables to make a repeating pattern? Potato, carrot, onion, potato, carrot, onion. Can you order the food by height?

5. Washing

Match the socks and then count in 2s. Sort the socks by colour and size. Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order.

6. Measuring

Are you taller than a ...? Marking height on the wall. Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the sofa? How long is the table? Which is longer? Who has the biggest hands in our family? How many steps from the gate to the front door?

7. Games

Playing adding games with playing cards, turning two over and working out how many altogether. Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games, for number recognition and counting on. Bingo, with numbers or shapes Hopscotch