Nursery and reception

Calculation policy

Updated September 2024



Guidance for teachers

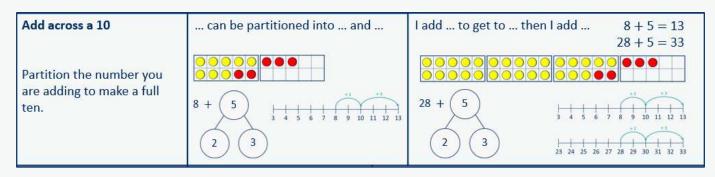


The calculation policy is divided into four sections: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. At the start of each section, you will find an overview of the progression of skills. Calculations involving decimal numbers and fractions are included.

The calculation policy follows the same concrete, pictorial, abstract approach as our main schemes of learning. Where appropriate, sentence stems and key questions are included alongside the key representations.

Where skills are divided into more than one section across the page, there is a progression in the level of difficulty from left to right.

For example, when adding across a 10, children need to be able to add across 10 itself, before making links with related facts.



Progression of skills – Addition



Nursery	Reception
• Subitise to 3	Conceptually subitise to 5
Count how many	• 1 more
Make numbers to 5	Notice the composition of numbers within 10
Add 1 more (through songs and rhymes)	Combine 2 groups
	Add more

Addition



Nursery	 Begin to have an understanding of numbers to 5 We recommend focusing on noticing and representing small quantities, perceptual subitising and counting. 		
Progression of skills	Key representations	Key representations	
Subitise to 3	How many do you see?		
Instantly see how many.			
Count how many	How many are there?	Count out from a larger group.	
Begin to count objects using 1-1 correspondence.	1 2 3 4 5	E.g. Collect 3 beanbags for a game.	
Make numbers to 5	Show me	Begin to link numerals to quantities.	
Start by showing 1, 2 and 3 using fingers.		3 5 5	
Add 1 more	How many do I have now?		
Through stories, songs and rhymes.			

Addition



Reception	 Have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. 	
Progression of skills	Key representations	
Conceptually subitise to 5 Notice the parts that make up the whole.	What do you see? How do you see it?	
1 more Continue to link to stories, songs and rhymes.	1 more than is 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Notice the composition of numbers within 10 Link to stories, songs and rhymes.	How many? How many altogether? How many altogether? How many ways can you make?	

Addition



Progression of skills	Key representations	
Combine 2 groups	There are There are	and make
2 groups are combined to find the total.	There are altogether.	
Add more	First Then Now	I have
A quantity is increased.	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	I add more. Now I have

Progression of skills – Subtraction



Nursery	Reception
• Subitise to 3	Conceptually subitise to 5
Count how many	• 1 less
Make numbers to 5	Notice the composition of numbers within 10
Take 1 away (through songs and rhymes)	• Partition
	Take away

Subtraction



Nursery	 Begin to have an understanding of numbers to 5 We recommend focusing on noticing and representing small quantities, perceptual subitising and counting. 		
Progression of skills	Key representations	Key representations	
Subitise to 3 Instantly see how many.	How many do you see?		
Count how many Begin to count objects using 1-1 correspondence.	How many are there? 1 2 3 4 5	Count out from a larger group. E.g. Collect a cup for everyone at the table.	
Make numbers to 5 Start by showing 1, 2 and 3 using fingers.	Show me	Begin to link numerals to quantities. 3	
Take 1 away Through stories, songs and rhymes.	How many do we have now?		

Subtraction



Reception	 Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (and some subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. 	
Progression of skills	Key representations	
Conceptually subitise to 5 Notice the parts that make up the whole.	What do you see? How do you see it?	
1 less Continue to link to stories, songs and rhymes.	1 less than is 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Notice the composition of numbers within 10 Link to stories, songs and rhymes.	How many? How many altogether? How many altogether?	

Subtraction



Progression of skills	Key representations	
Partition	There are altogether. I can see here and there.	and make
Using objects, explore different ways to partition a number into 2 or more		
parts.		
Take away	First Then Now	I have
A quantity is reduced.		I take away Now I have

Progression of skills – Multiplication



Nursery	Reception
 Continue with counting and subitising skills as a foundation for later work on equal groups. (see addition and subtraction sections) 	Double to 10Make equal groups

Multiplication



Reception	 Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.
Progression of skills	Key representations
Prompt children to notice that double means twice as many and to notice that there are two equal groups.	Double is is double I Double is I Double i
Make equal groups Provide opportunities to make equal groups when tidying up or during snack time. Encourage children to check that each group has the same amount.	There are groups of There are altogether.

Progression of skills – Division



Nursery	Reception
 Continue with counting and subitising skills as a foundation for later work on equal groups. (see addition and subtraction sections) 	SharingGrouping

Division



Reception	 Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.
Progression of skills	Key representations
Sharing Provide practical activities such as sharing items during snack time. Encourage children to check whether items have been shared fairly (equally).	There are altogether. They are shared equally between groups.
Grouping Provide opportunities to make equal groups when tidying up or during snack time. Encourage children to check that each group has the same amount.	There are groups of There are altogether.