

Ten frames

Section 2: Getting started

Once you have your frames organised, how do you use them?

If you are working with the frames in the Early Years Foundation Stage, use natural objects and items within the children's own experience, such as shells, pebbles, sticks, stones, small toys, crayons or building bricks.

A good place to start with very young children is with a 5 frame. This helps to establish numbers from 0 – 5



Roll a dice with the numbers 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 on it and ask the child to count the spots on the dice and fill the frame with the corresponding number of items or counters.

After each round work out the score. Compare the frames to establish who has the most spots.

Ask questions, e.g. How many spots (shells/pebbles/sticks) do you have? How many empty spaces do you have? How many more spots (shells/pebbles/sticks) do you need to make 5?

If you are working in Key Stage 1 or with SEND children, then use cubes, counters, plastic bears etc. The most flexible resource to use is a set of two coloured counters. These are special counters which are one colour on one side and a contrasting colour on the reverse side. They come in two main sets red/blue and red/yellow.

