



The Muddy Puddle Teacher



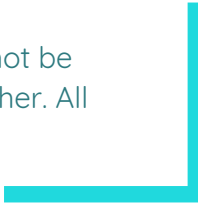

Counting Games | EYFS

BEE GREEN AND ONLY PRINT IF YOU HIVE TO :)

USE THE ATTACHED HANDBOOK TO GUIDE YOU WITH SAFETY AND
USING OUR APPROACH

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Sharing the Muddy Love :)

Welcome



Message from our Founder - Sarah Seaman

Welcome :)

This pack will help restore purpose to your teaching and show you how getting a little messy can make outdoor learning more memorable for your students. If you're unfamiliar with the Muddy Puddle Teacher Approach then please refer to our handbook which will guide you through our Muddy ways. On this page you'll see the three Muddy Ms. These are our core values that remind us to give children the outdoor experience that they deserve. It can be very tricky at times not to let your indoor traits spread to the outdoors. We encourage you to use our tips and the attached handbook as these will help keep you focused and shed light when you need it. Have fun and enjoy getting Muddy!

Sarah :)



Muddy active



On cold days you'll want to keep the children even more active so don't be afraid to have little breaks where necessary. At Muddy HQ we call this 'dispersing'. We let the children go for a jog around the yard or jump on the spot and do star jumps if space is limited. This gets children warmed up and gives them that burst of energy they sometimes need to focus on more challenging work.

Some of the activities below require asking the children to sit down and do work on the floor. Get them to run around while they search and collect items such as sticks, leaves and mud. You can ask them to run, hop, skip or jump. Make it more challenging and increase the pace by putting a timer on how long they have to collect the items.

Muddy nature



We believe in BALANCE and while our goal is to promote the use of natural resources, we understand that this may be restrictive at times and not always possible in every lesson. But we do want to encourage you to use natural resources and most of our ideas will make this very easy for you. Why is this so important? Because it gives children the chance to experience and touch nature, all while getting good bacteria into their systems. It's also a much better sensory experience for children if they use natural resources rather than plastic. And above all, it encourages sustainability and teaches the future generation to respect the environment.

Muddy well-being



The Muddy Puddle Approach is passionate about school being a happy and safe space for children. Learning is such a gift and should always be fun for children of all ages. So try to distinguish between indoor and outdoor activities. Avoid using indoor practices that can often segregate groups, such as differentiating, grouping by ability or gender, competitions or stars of the day. Instead, let the children be children. Give them the chance to simply enjoy learning and achieve together without rewards. It will take some time to shift your mindset and teaching style, but don't worry. It will be worth it once you see the results!

Before you start

Summary

This activity pack will help parents practise counting games with their children in a fun, muddy and messy way! These counting games are designed for the outdoors and aim to encourage your child to learn maths while being active. Counting is a fabulous way to develop the mental maths skills they need and it enhances their ability to solve problems and use calculations.

What to count

This activity book is designed for children aged 4 to 6 and follows the curriculum for this age group. Here are a few tips to help you get the most out of our pack:

- Make sure you teach children to count in order as this will make it much easier for them to learn and remember.
- Practise each game as many times as you need to but make sure you add variety and change the game each time. Too much repetition can lead to children switching off and disengaging.
- Move onto the next number once you feel your child has made sufficient progress but remember to return to previous numbers several weeks later so that they can refresh their memory.
- Count up to 10 and 20, counting both forwards and backwards. Make it more challenging by counting to 100 but starting from different points in the sequence. Again make sure you count forwards and backwards. Then try counting in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s and 10s.

EYFS objectives

Listening and attention

Children:

- Listen attentively in a range of situations.
- Listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and responding to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- Pay attention to what others are saying and respond appropriately while engaging in another activity.

Speaking

Children:

- Express themselves effectively, showing awareness of the listeners' needs.
- Use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.
- Develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

Physical Development

Children:

- Show good control and coordination in large and small movements.
- Move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- Handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Numbers:

Children:

- Count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.
- Use quantities and objects to add and subtract two single-digit numbers, and count backwards to find the answer.
- Solve problems including doubling, halving and sharing.

The weather

Go out in all weathers – it will make learning more memorable. We all know that we're more likely to stay out longer when there's brilliant sunshine, so why not try something different and indulge in the rain and cold for a change?

**“CHANGE IS THE END RESULT OF
ALL TRUE LEARNING.” —LEO
BUSCAGLIA**

Chanting games



Soldier counting

Tell the children that they're going to turn into soldiers for the day. Instruct them to put their imaginary hats and coats on, and stand at attention! Then get them to march around your space while they count. Encourage the children to count backwards while they walk backwards as this physical element will help reinforce their learning and they'll understand that numbers can go back too!

Froggy jumps

Ask the children to crouch down and do froggy jumps as they count numbers. When they finish a set of counting, they must jump onto another lily pad. Use a leaf, a rock or some sticks to make a lily pad in the shape of circle.

Queens speech

Walk around your space or go on a walk and count using different voices. Get creative with this game and count in both quiet and loud voices. You might want to use the Queen as an example of a quiet voice and Batman as an example of a loud voice. Mix it up and try counting in both fast and slow motion.

Muddy band counting

Ask the children to find two sticks. Then use a wall or a bench and tap the sticks together to count. Mix it up by increasing or decreasing the counting speed. Get the children to change their sticks and use different lengths and materials to bang on.

Maths athletics

Encourage the children to count while they run, jog, jump, hop or skip. Mix up the pace by getting them to move faster or slower while they count. Again, practise doing these activities backwards when they count backwards.

Ping pong counting

Start counting and ask the children to reply with the next number. For example, if you say 2 the child says 3 and so on. Walk and skip as you do this activity.

Math sprint

Mark out a space using walls or cones that children will run to and from. Then get the children to count and race from one side to another. They can hold hands, link arms or do this solo – it's up to you!

Counting sticks

Ask the children to find ten sticks and lay them out. The children then have to count forwards in multiples while stepping on the sticks. Again, make sure they practise counting backwards as well.

Hide and seek

This is a simple but excellent way to test if the children can work on an individual basis while the rest hide. It's a game that seems to be a favourite with all ages!

Muddy maths

This is another favourite at Muddy HQ. Wait for a rainy day, then take the children outside and jump in puddles while they count at the same time.

Counting objects games



Pick a stick

Ask children to collect a number of sticks. Choose a number which reflects the curriculum area they've been working on. Ask the children to lay the sticks in front of them to check they have the correct number and count again. Get the children to put each stick in a pile once they've finished counting. Make sure they also practise doing this backwards. Repeat several times to embed the learning but remember to switch the sticks with rocks or leaves.

Leaf dash

Get each child to find a stick and lots of leaves. Their task is to collect lots of leaves and fit as many as they can onto the stick. Ask them to remove a leaf and count the remaining leaves on the stick. Make it more challenging by asking the child to put ten leaves on their stick and count in 2s or 5s, throwing the leaves in the air as they count.

Chalk counting

Get your chalk sticks out and draw dots and lines on the walls. Then get the children to count them, crossing them out as they count.

Soggy socks

This is a fun and soggy game that children will love! Find a collection of socks, get them wet and then ask children to count them out while they're hanging on the washing line. Gather ten socks and then count in multiples, such as 2s and 5s or alternatively count in single numbers. Try changing the number they start at each time. If they're counting to 100, get them to start at 56 or 77. If they're counting to 12, get them to count in 2s. It's important that you switch this up and don't always start from the normal starting point.

Rocking and rolling maths

Make a ramp from a scrap piece of wood and raise this on one end by adding a step. Find some rocks and roll them down the ramp while the children count. If you have time, talk about gravity and how it pulls the rock down.

Wet maths

All you need for this game is a paintbrush, a bucket of water and a dry day! Ask the children to dab lots of spots on a wall or floor and then get them to count how many spots they have. Extend this game by getting the children to count in multiples of 2, 3, 4 and 5. A quick heads up: this game is MESSY but very fun! If you're feeling particularly adventurous, use poster paint instead!

Hopscotch

This is a simple but very overlooked game! Play hopscotch by using some chalk to write the numbers on the ground. As well as using single units you can also use numbers in 2s, 5s and 10s. Alternatively, you can make this game more challenging by using sections of numbers from 0-100, for example by starting at 12 or 33. Pick a number that your child might be struggling with. Give the child a rock and ask them to roll it onto a number. Then get them to hop to the number, saying the numbers they pass out loud but not saying the number they land on.

"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics."— Paul Halmos

Home learning

Guess what? Learning is fun!

Your child's setting is passionate about ensuring that children get outside and connect with nature. Apart from all the physical and mental health benefits, studies now show that children are smarter if they play outside! These activities are great for family bonding, being more active and teaching your children about maths while they have fun. Enjoy!

Your Muddy task :)

Family band counting

Take your family for a walk in a natural space where you know there will be some sticks. Show your child how to look for a stick safely. Ask your child to brush the floor with their feet first to check for dangerous objects and then get them to pick it up with their hands. The stick will become a drum stick that your child can use to tap things around them while they count.

Think about the areas that your child is working on in class and encourage them to practise these numbers. It could be that you count in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s or 10s. It works for any value and is also a handy game for practising multiplications. You also might find that a relaxing environment outside is just what your child needs to enjoy their learning. If they don't feel like joining in, that's fine. Carry on doing the exercise yourself as listening to counting is also a powerful memory technique that will help them learn even if they're not actively participating.

“LIFE IS A JOURNEY,
NOT A DESTINATION.” –
RALPH WALDO
EMERSON

Did you know?

Studies have shown that children who play outside are smarter! Use this link to read more: <https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/>



Congratulations!



To



You have been awarded the
Muddy Counting Award !

SignedDate.....

“LIFE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.” -RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Message for parents!

If your child likes to learn outside then
check out our parent packs at:
www.themuddypuddleteacher.co.uk