EYFS –see Development Matters 2021 for detailed examples of how to support learning in EYFS Mathematics

"Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding – such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting – children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes."

Reference: 'Development Matters: Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.' Accessed 06/12/2022.

Development Matters - Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage (publishing.service.gov.uk)

0-3 years	3-4 years	Reception- 4-5 years
Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - '1-2-3-5.' Climb and squeeze themselves into different types of spaces. Build with a range of resources. Complete puzzles. Compare sizes, weights etc. Using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'. Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns.	Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising'). Recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5. Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle'). Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'. Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'. Understand position through words alone – for example, make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity	ELG: Number Children at the expected level of development will: - Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number; 14 - Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5; - Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. ELG: Numerical Patterns- Children at the expected level of development will: - Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system; - Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity; - Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally