

## Mathematical moments: Cardinal counting with 3 & 4 year olds



Gemma was cutting apples in half for the children's snack and then Elijah was putting them onto a plate. They counted together as he did so, with Gemma checking their progress towards the six pieces they needed:

*One, two- How many is that so far?*

*Two*

*Ok. Three, four... How many now?*

*Four*

*Good. Five, six... How many is that?*

*Six! That's enough for all of us!*

Elijah knew the last number counted told them how many apple halves they had so far, showing he understood the cardinal counting principle, and that it applied not just when he finished counting a collection, but at any point while counting. Gemma was supporting him to count on from the last number they said. Elijah had also kept in mind the target number of six.

