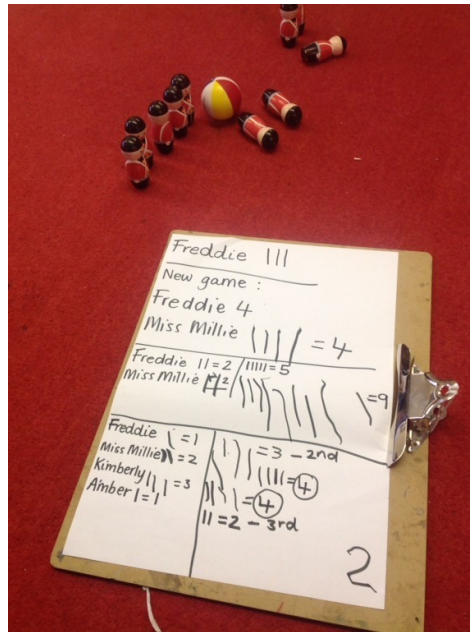


Mathematical moments with 5- and 6-year-olds

Applying number understanding to scoring for games

A game of indoors skittles began. After a while observing the children celebrating when they knocked them over, Miss M suggested they count and total how many they knocked down each time. A clipboard and pens were found and Miss M recorded her skittles as tallies. Children used a simplified tallying system to decide the winner each game. On a later occasion, Miss M modelled how to tally a score of 5 as a 'gate'.



'Pick up sticks' is a favourite game. The children were very focussed, looking carefully at the stick arrangement and which one would be the safest to move. At the end of the game, Elaine wondered how they could quickly total their scores. The children suggested counting by lining the sticks up. Elaine extended this to putting the sticks into tallies of 5, something the children see every day on the dinner chart. Tyler was able to group his sticks into tallies of five (four in a row and across the gate) and then recognised 2 lots of 5 as 10 and counted on the remaining 3 to find the total of 13.



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