

Mathematical moments: 3 & 4 year olds

Number - composition



The children in the nursery noticed the composition of 3 in various contexts:

Rhymes and stories:

3 billy goats: *2 have gone over the bridge, 1 more to go..*

3 bears: *2 grown ups and one baby bear is 3 bears.*

Snack:

3 grapes each, do you want green or black?

I'm going to have 2 green, and 1 black!

Cooking: *The recipe says, '3 eggs'. We've added 1, so how many more do we have to add? 2!*

Tidying up: *There are 3 big balls and we've only got 2. There's one missing.*

Games: Throwing 3 beanbags each into the tyre: *2 in and 1 out- that's 3!*

Kippers Toybox game: 3 toys go into the box, one comes out – how many are still inside? 2!



Photo: Esther O'Connor