

Mathematical moments with 5 year olds

Number: Numbers to 10

Number bond trays



I set up this invitation to explore making numbers to 10. We used colourful loose parts and a two section tray so that they could see the separate parts.



Each child picked their own card for the total: this gave them ownership of the activity. I put some loose parts to the left-hand tray. The child counted these, looked at the number card, then worked out how many they needed to add to the right-hand tray to make their number. They began by using their fingers to make up the total: 'Sam, this is 5' (showing me fingers). When they became confident they were able to think about the missing number in their head: 'Sam, I need 3 more'. I also promoted the language of simple addition: '2 add 3 is 5'.



I found this was a great activity for engaging children in recognising numerals, subitising and introducing number bonds.

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Sam Goldsworthy, Childminder