

## Mathematical moments with 3 to 5 year olds

### Number: counting, estimating and composition

#### Bird feeding

Feeding the birds is a job we do regularly in the setting. The children will often spot the feeders are empty and will tell me!

'Sam, the bird feeder is empty again.'

They enjoy using the cup to fill up the bird feeders, talking about whether the feeder is full, empty, half full etc.



'Sam, there is lots of seeds in here.'

The fat balls is a maths game in itself - the children will often guess how many fat balls they can fit in the feeder and will count to double check their answer.

'Let me count: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5' (whilst pointing to each fat ball).

'We've put in 3 and it holds 5 so we need 2 more' (whilst showing me their fingers to represent the 2 more that they need).

This is a great hands-on activity to strengthen counting, estimating, more or less and cardinality (number values).



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