

Multiplication: Count objects or dots in twos

This links closely to the skill 'Use repeated addition for two: 2, 4, 6, 8, ... 20'. If the child finds this skill hard, try some of the activities from the resource for repeated addition.

Counters

Lay the counters out on the table.

- How could you count these quickly?
- Can you count them in 2s?
- What happens if there is one left over? (You can't count in twos – eg, 2, 4, 6, **7**)
- What does this tell you about the number? (odd or even)
- How do you know this? ('Even' means you can match the numbers in twos with nothing left over – 'odd' means there is one left over: $\cdot \cdot \cdot \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$)

Numicon

Roll the dice and get out that number of 2 Numicon pieces.

- How many pieces of Numicon do you have?
- How many do you have altogether?
- How could you record this as a number sentence?
 ("2 times 4 = 8" or $2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 8$)

Counters as coins

You could do the activity above using counters as '2p coins' as this is also the number 2 represented by 1 object. Simply write 2p on the counter in whiteboard pen. (Or use toy or actual coins.)

Sweetie Shop

Get ten small pieces of scrap paper and place 2 counters on each one (or draw 2 circles on each one) Explain that this is the sweetie shop and the sweeties are sold on trays of 2. Pretend to be a customer and ask the child for X amount of sweets. The child must give you that many by counting them out in 2s for you. If you have access to toy money you could extend this activity (or use objects as pretend money). You can say that the sweets are 2p each and ask the child to count out the correct amount of money.

Socks

Bring in some pairs of socks and ask the child to tell you how many socks there are without undoing each pair. That way they will have to count each pair as 2 rather than counting the socks individually. Unpair the socks and count them individually to check if the child is correct. This could be used as a quick starter.

This activity could be repeated with anything that comes in pairs.