

Consecutive numbers - example guidance for parents

This activity is good fun and the maths involved is relatively straightforward. However, it is important to check that your child is adding their consecutive numbers correctly. If they find incorrect totals, they will not be able to spot patterns in the numbers. Be prepared to check their calculations with a calculator (if necessary) so they don't miss the pattern.

Some children may immediately notice a relationship between the total and the middle number in their set of consecutive number after creating just one example. Encourage them to repeat multiple examples to see if what they noticed continues to be true.

What many children will find difficult is explaining why the pattern happens. At this point it is really helpful to focus on smaller numbers and to have some visual or physical representations of those numbers. Older children particularly may not want to use objects or draw pictures but really encourage them to do so as it will help them to see what is going on.

When your child completes their explanation, encourage them to include the pictures or objects that they have used; this will make their explanation easier to follow.