Eggs – example guidance for parents

These activities support your child to think mathematically whilst also providing lots of opportunities to practice addition and subtraction within twenty. They build upon the understanding of what happens when adding odd and even numbers as seen in the previous activity 'Next door numbers'.

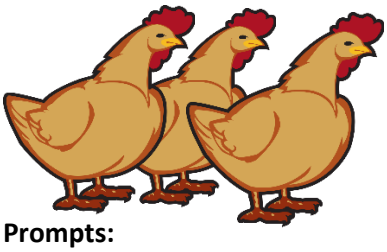
Children often think that there is one correct solution to a problem so one of the most useful questions you can ask them is, "Is there another way?"

In this activity, let your children explore more if they are motivated to do so. Encourage them to answer their own questions where possible and reflect back to them, "What do you think? Why do you think that?" rather than telling them what you think or what you have noticed. One of the most useful supports you can encourage them to use is the appropriate number of objects to represent the eggs; children will be able to find out many things for themselves if they have some things to work with and some encouragement to work independently.

Activity

You will need: Something to write on (paper or an exercise book is better than a whiteboard) and something to write with; up to twenty similar-sized or identical objects.

Prompts and questions (to give your child the first part of the activity)**:**



Three chickens lay sixteen eggs altogether.

Each chicken lays an **even** number of eggs and they all lay <u>some</u> eggs.

How many eggs could each chicken lay?

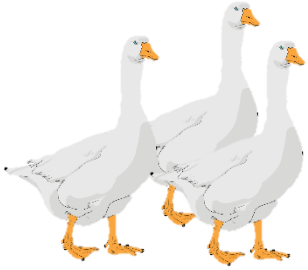
How many different ways can you find?

How can you show these or write them down?

Prompts:

- (If they are struggling to start) Count out sixteen objects to use as eggs
- (If they are still struggling to start) Try starting with one chicken laying 6 eggs…How many have you got left? How many might the other chickens each lay? Is there another way?
- (Then) What if your first chicken lays 4 eggs?
- (To encourage them to keep exploring) Can you find another way?

Prompts and questions (to give your child the second part of the activity)**:**



Three geese lay nineteen eggs altogether.

Each goose lays an **odd** number of eggs and they all lay <u>some</u> eggs.

How many eggs could each goose lay?

How many different ways can you find?

How can you show these or write them down?

Prompts: as above but using nineteen objects for eggs. If children needed some support with the first part of the activity, encourage them to work more independently now

When children have found different combinations for both chickens and geese stop them. Explain that chickens can <u>only</u> lay even numbers of eggs and geese can <u>only</u> lay odd numbers of eggs. Then ask one or more of these questions:

- Is it possible for three geese to lay 16 eggs? How do you know? Can you show me?
- Is it possible for three chickens to lay 19 eggs? How do you know? Can you show me?
- What combinations of three birds (e.g. chicken, chicken, goose) could lay: a) 16 eggs b) 19 eggs
- Can you find all the possible combinations for a) and b)?