**What is subitising?**

Subitising: recognising small quantities without needing to count them all

Subitising is recognising how many things are in a group without having to count them one by one. Children need opportunities to see regular arrangements of small quantities, e.g. a dice face, structured manipulatives, etc., and be encouraged to say the quantity represented. Children also need opportunities to recognise small amounts (up to five) when they are not in the ‘regular’ arrangement, e.g. small handfuls of objects.

**Activities and opportunities:**

* using dot cards, dominoes and dice as part of a game, including irregularly arranged dots (e.g. stuck on)
* playing hidden objects games where objects are revealed for a few seconds, for example, small toys hidden under a bowl – shuffle them, lift the bowl briefly and ask how many there were
* ‘all at once fingers’ – show me four fingers.