Number Bonds in Early Years

One of the most important sets of number facts for children to learn early on in their mathematics education is ‘Number Bonds’.

Number bonds provide a mental picture of the relationship between two numbers. These mental pictures are key to enabling a child to complete mental arithmetic. Knowing addition number bonds means that a child will understand subtraction with ease.

If a child knows that 2 + 6 = 8 they will quickly realise that when they see 8 – 6 = ? the answer is 2 because by process of elimination 2 is the missing number in this number bond. It helps children to see that subtraction is the inverse to addition. They begin to see the patterns in numbers and to learn the mathematical principles rather than having to memorise each individual sum.

Number bonds are the foundation blocks that children need to make progress with mathematics. Once they know all the number bonds for 1-20, they will have the information they need to subtract using the numbers 1-20.

Number Bonds to 10

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| Number | Number Bond |
| 2 | 0 + 2 = 2, 1 + 1 = 2 |
| 3 | 0 + 3 = 3, 1 + 2 = 3 |
| 4 | 0 + 4 = 4, 1 + 3 = 4, 2 + 2 = 4 |
| 5 | 0 + 5 = 5, 1 + 4 = 5, 2 + 3 = 5 |
| 6 | 0 + 6 = 6, 1 + 5 = 6, 2 + 4 = 6, 3 + 3 = 6 |
| 7 | 0 + 7 = 7, 1 + 6 = 7, 2 + 5 = 7, 3 + 4 = 7 |
| 8 | 0 + 8 = 8, 1 + 7 = 8, 2 + 6 = 8, 3 + 5 = 8, 4 + 4 = 8 |
| 9 | 0 + 9 = 9, 1 + 8 = 9, 2 + 7 = 9, 3 + 6 = 9, 4 + 5 = 9 |
| 10 | 0 + 10 = 10, 1 + 9 = 10, 2 + 8 = 10, 3 + 7 = 10, 4 + 6 = 10, 5 + 5 = 10 |

Below you will also find web based activities for helping your child to learn their number bonds at home.

[Save The Whale – Number Bonds to 10](http://www.ictgames.com/saveTheWhale/index.html)

[Funky Mummy – Number Bonds to 20](http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/funkyMummy/index.html)

[Safe Cracker – Number Bonds to 20](https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/index.html)