

Diagnostic TASK

FOCUS

Understand Numbers

- Key Understanding 1

Get Me Task

Years/Grades K–2

Purpose

To see if children choose to use counting when asked to get a number of items.

Equipment

General classroom equipment

Procedure

Tell the child that you need some blocks to make a house.

Ask: 'Can you get me 7 blocks?'

Observe

Does the child:

- choose to use counting to help find the right amount?
- take a handful, ignoring the amount requested?

Use all 7 blocks and build a house. Then ask: *Can you get me 12 spots (counters or squares) for me to make a path to my house please?* Observe the child again using the above criteria. Set out the path around the house and take some time to engage the child in a short play time.

Get Me Task

They have to remember the number word, then count out the number of items, and monitor the requested number while they count.

If children do not know the number string well their working memory is taken up with remembering the sequence and they tend to forget the number they were asked to get.

Baroody A. J., and Wilkins J.L.M. (1999) The Development of Informal Counting, Number and Arithmetic Skills and Concepts. In *Mathematics in the Early Years, Birth to Five*. Ed. Copely, J., NCTM, Reston, p 48-65.