



Natural Estimating

Outdoor Activity

You will need:

3 plastic jars

A collection of stones

A collection of acorns or conkers

A collection of small sticks

The Activity

1. Make three different estimating jars.
2. Add up to 20 stones to one jar, up to 20 sticks to another jar and up to 10 conkers to the last jar.
3. Allow the children to have a good look at a jar of their choice. How many items do they think are in the jar? Can they make a sensible guess, or 'estimate'?
4. With the child, open the jar and count the items. How does it compare to the number the child had estimated? Was their estimate higher or lower? Talk about what a good estimate is and explain that it does not always mean getting the exact same number as the actual answer.
5. Let the children estimate the number of items in the other jars to develop their confidence with estimating.

