Explore and play

EYFS Aspect of learning

Numbers

Busy Ant Maths F Topic

Adding and subtracting

Early learning goal

 Uses quantities and objects to subtract two single-digit numbers and counts back to find the answer

Activity 2: Small-world play stories 22 or 22 or 3 or 3 or 3 or 3

• Carry out addition and subtraction calculations involving single-digit numbers in context

Resources

small-world play resources, e.g. farmyard play resources such as animals and fields (per group/pair); 1–6 dice (per group/pair/child)

What to do

- Ask the children to set up the farm together, each child setting up one field of animals. Each of these must have no more than six animals in it, for example, three cows.
- The children take turns to roll the dice and note the score, for example, 3. They add that number of cows, sheep and so on to their field. They then say the addition number story to the rest of the group, for example: 'I've got three cows. The farmer puts in four more. Now there are seven cows in the field.'
- Once all the children have had a turn, use the same fields for subtraction, for example: 'There are seven cows in the field but someone left the gate open and two have got out. Now there are only five in the field.'

Variation

Alter the activity to suit the resources available, for example, using the dolls' house: 'There are three people in the sitting room and two in the bathroom, so there are five people in the house altogether.' 'There are five people in the house and three go out to the park. Now there are two people left in the house.'