

Counting with Five Little Monkeys is a classic maths activity for junior primary pupils – a counting exercise that pupils love! You can extend their learning by analysing the Maths Week 2018 poster to uncover the maths embedded in it.

Display the poster on the interactive board and use the questions below as guide to promote mathematical thinking with your children:

- What can you see in the picture?
- What is the time on the clock? What would the time be if it was one hour later/earlier?
- What might you be doing at this time on a Saturday? What about a Tuesday?
- What shapes can you see? Are they 2-D or 3-D shapes?
- I can see five of something in the picture – what might I be looking at? Where are they? What are they doing? What if one of the monkeys falls of the bed – how many will be still on the bed?
- Count the number of rings that one of the monkeys holds. Do these colours, stacked in this order, remind you of anything? (rainbow) How many colours does the rainbow have? (7) What colour is missing? (violet)
- Describe differences in patterns on the lamps.
- Name the shapes on the carpet. What colours are they?
- Could you put more toys into the box?
- If you were to unpack the box, where would you put the toys?
- Are there more monkeys than dolls?
- Which shapes are identical?
- Which toys/shapes look similar but have different sizes.
- How many yellow things can you find?

Below are some of the representations for the numbers 1 – 9 in the picture – there may also be others:

1. Lots of ones: one clock, one toy plane, one ball, one stacking rings toy, one bed, one pillow.
2. Lamps, bedside chests, two pairs of roller skates.
3. Teddy bears, toy trains, ducks, also three circles, triangles and rectangles on the carpet, three o'clock.
4. Stars, robots, roller skates
5. Monkeys
6. Rings
7. Number of letters in the words "Monkeys" and "Jumping"
8. Blocks
9. Bananas, shapes on the carpet

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed
 One fell off and bumped his head
 Mama called the doctor
 And the doctor said
 No more monkeys jumping on the bed

(Repeat pattern with four, three, two and then one)