

Episode Description

National Centre
for Excellence in the
Teaching of Mathematics



The Numberblocks find a small wooden cube with dots on it, and are surprised to discover that one side has more dots than they can count. It's time to make a new friend, and so Numberblocks Five and One do number magic to make Six. Six appears and tells her new number friends all about dice and how to play games. She raps - *Six is in the Mix* - about dice and gets the others playing games. First, they take turns to match the dot patterns on the dice with their blocks, they then roll the dice in turn to decide whose turn it is to dance. They each do a characterful counting dance, before ending with dice games including snakes and ladders.

Maths in the Episode

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Subitising Dice Patterns

In this episode children experience recognising the spot patterns on the dice without counting. This is known as 'subitising'. Being able to subitise small quantities has been shown to be a key skill in developing number sense.

Counting from 1 to 6

This episode provides another opportunity to develop counting skills from 1 to 6. Observe whether children use one-to-one correspondence (match one number name to each object) and, know the number names in order.

Using Mathematical Language

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During this episode children will experience recognising dice spot patterns without counting.

Use this stem sentence to support the pupils' noticing:

"I see 3 spots without counting."