

Busy Ant Maths Foundation Medium-Term Plans

The following offers a suggested scope and sequence through the mathematics 40 – 60+ months Early years outcomes and the Early learning goals.

These medium-term plans organise the Busy Ant Maths Foundation units into 12 three-week blocks.

While following the order of the units will assist with progression, Busy Ant Maths Foundation offers a high level of flexibility, and practitioners should not feel constrained by the order in which the Busy Ant Maths Foundation units are taught, nor the amount of time allotted to each of these units. These medium-term plans should be viewed as recommendations only. Individual schools and early years providers should adapt these plans to reflect the requirements of their school / setting and the needs of their children.

Pre-Block 1

Numbers – Unit N0: Introduction to number

Shape, space and measures – Unit SSM0: Introduction to shape

Block 1

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	Shape (2-D) / Exploring patterns

Block 5

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Counting & recognising numbers / Solving problems	Shape (3-D) / Exploring patterns

Block 9

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Counting & recognising numbers / Solving problems	Shape (2-D & 3D) / Exploring patterns

Block 2

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	Measures (length & height)

Block 6

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Adding & subtracting (Adding)	Adding & subtracting (Adding) / Solving problems	Measures (weight)

Block 10

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Adding & subtracting (Adding) / Solving problems	Adding & subtracting (Subtracting) / Solving problems	Measures (time)

Block 3

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Adding & subtracting (Adding)	Adding & subtracting (Adding)	Space

Block 7

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Adding & subtracting (Subtracting)	Adding & subtracting (Subtracting) / Solving problems	Measures (time)

Block 11

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Solving problems (Counts in 2s, 5s & 10s)**	Solving problems (grouping)**	Measures (money)

Block 4

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Adding & subtracting (Subtracting)	Adding & subtracting (Subtracting)	Measures (money)

Block 8

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Solving problems (doubling and halving)	Measures (capacity)

Block 12

Numbers -		Shape, space & measures -
Counting & recognising numbers	Solving problems (sharing)	Space

NOTES:

The order of the *Busy Ant Maths* Foundation topics and the amount of time allotted to each of these topics should be viewed as recommendations. Individual schools and classes should adapt the above to reflect the requirements of their school / class and needs of their children.

** Indicates this unit covers the Early learning goal 'Exceeding Development' descriptor 11: *They solve practical problems that involve combining groups of 2, 5 or 10, or sharing into equal groups.*

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Pre-Block 1 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Shape, space & measures – Shape			Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
EYFS Aspect of learning	<i>Busy Ant Maths F</i> Topic(s)	<i>Busy Ant Maths F</i> Unit Title	<i>Busy Ant Maths F</i>	
			Unit	Teacher's Guide
Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	Introduction to number	N 0	26
Shape, space and measures	Shape	Introduction to shape	SSM 0	251

NOTES:

Bold denote an Early learning goal

Italics denote an Early years outcome / Early learning goal that has been taught previously and therefore should be consolidated and extended.

The allocation of the Early years outcome / Early learning goal for each week above should be viewed as recommendations only. Individual schools and early years providers should adapt the above to reflect the requirements of their school / setting and the needs of their children.

Block 1 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Shape, space & measures – Shape (2-D) / Exploring patterns				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	<i>Busy Ant Maths F</i> Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	<i>Busy Ant Maths F</i>	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognise some numerals of personal significance	N 1	34
			• Recognises numerals 1 to 5	N 2	41
			• Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item	N 6	74
			• Counts actions or objects which cannot be moved	N 7	83
2	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• <i>Recognise some numerals of personal significance</i>	N 1	34
			• <i>Recognises numerals 1 to 5</i>	N 2	41
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• <i>Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item</i>	N 6	74
			• <i>Counts actions or objects which cannot be moved</i>	N 7	83
3	Shape, space & measures	Shape (2-D)	• Beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2-D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes	SSM 1	259
			• Selects a particular named shape [2-D only]	SSM 2	267
		Exploring patterns	• Uses familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models	SSM 18	370
			• Recognises, creates and describes patterns	SSM 19	377

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Block 2 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Shape, space & measures – Measures (length & height)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 5	N 2	41
			• Recognises numerals 1 to 10	N 3	48
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10	N 8	92
			• Counts out up to six objects from a larger group	N 9	102
			• Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects	N 10	111
2	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 10	N 3	48
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10	N 8	92
			• Counts out up to six objects from a larger group	N 9	102
			• Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects	N 10	111
			• Counts an irregular arrangement of up to ten objects	N 11	120
3	Shape, space & measures	Measures (length & height)	• Orders two or three items by length or height	SSM 8	307
			• Uses everyday language to talk about size to compare quantities and objects to solve problems	SSM 13	336

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 2:

- Shape, space & measures – Shape (2-D) / Exploring patterns

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Block 3 Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Adding) Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Adding) Shape, space & measures – Space				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Adding)	• Finds the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them	N 16	157
			• In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in adding	N 18	173
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain [in the context of adding and subtracting]	N 20	185
2	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Adding)	• Finds the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them	N 16	157
			• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in adding	N 18	173
3	Shape, space & measures	Space	• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain [in the context of adding and subtracting]	N 20	185
			• Can describe their relative position such as 'behind' or 'next to'	SSM 5	288
			• Uses everyday language to talk about position, distance [and direction] to objects and to solve problems	SSM 6	194
			• Uses everyday language to talk about distance to compare objects and to solve problems	SSM 7	301

Suggested topics to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 3:

- Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers
- Shape, space & measures – Measures (length & height)

Block 4 Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Subtracting) Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Subtracting) Shape, space & measures – Measures (money)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Subtracting)	• In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in subtracting	N 19	179
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain [in the context of adding and subtracting]	N 20	185
2	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Subtracting)	• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in subtracting	N 19	179
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain [in the context of adding and subtracting]	N 20	185
3	Shape, space & measures	Measures (money)	• Uses everyday language to talk about money to compare quantities and objects to solve problems	SSM 17	361

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 4:

- Shape, space & measures – Space

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Block 5 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers / Solving problems Shape, space & measures – Shape (3-D) / Exploring patterns				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 10	N 3	48
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10	N 8	92
			• Counts out up to six objects from a larger group	N 9	102
			• Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects	N 10	111
			• Counts an irregular arrangement of up to ten objects	N 11	120
			• Estimates how many objects they can see and checks by counting them	N 12	126
2	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 10	N 3	48
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10	N 8	92
			• Counts out up to six objects from a larger group	N 9	102
			• Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects	N 10	111
			• Counts an irregular arrangement of up to ten objects	N 11	120
			• Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects [to 10, then extend to 20]	N 13	133
3	Shape, space & measures	Solving problems	• Begins to identify own mathematical problems based on own interests and fascinations	N 24	211
		Shape (3-D)	• Beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2-D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes	SSM 1	259
			• Selects a particular named shape [3-D only]	SSM 2	267
		Exploring patterns	• Uses familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models	SSM 18	370

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 5:

- Shape, space & measures – Measures (money)

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Block 6 Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Adding) Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Adding) / Solving problems Shape, space & measures – Measures (weight)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Adding)	• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• Uses quantities and objects to add two single-digit numbers and count on to find the answer [totals to 10 only]	N 22	198
2	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Adding)	• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• Uses quantities and objects to add two single-digit numbers and count on to find the answer [totals to 10 only]	N 22	198
3	Shape, space & measures	Solving problems	• Begins to identify own mathematical problems based on own interests and fascinations	N 24	211
			• Orders two items by weight	SSM 9	314
			• Uses everyday language to talk about weight to compare quantities and objects to solve problems	SSM 14	343

Suggested topics to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 6:

- Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers
- Shape, space & measures – Shape (3-D) / Exploring patterns

Block 7 Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Subtracting) Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Subtracting) / Solving problems Shape, space & measures – Measures (time)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Subtracting)	• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• Uses quantities and objects to subtract two single-digit numbers and count back to find the answer	N 23	204
2	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Subtracting)	• Says the number that is one more than a given number	N 17	165
			• Finds one more or one less from a group of up to five objects, then ten objects		
			• Uses quantities and objects to subtract two single-digit numbers and count back to find the answer	N 23	204
3	Shape, space & measures	Solving problems	• Begins to identify own mathematical problems based on own interests and fascinations	N 24	211
		Measures (time)	• Orders and sequences familiar events	SSM 11	324
			• Measures short periods of time in simple ways	SSM 12	330

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 7:

- Shape, space & measures – Measures (weight)

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Block 8 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Solving problems (doubling and halving) Shape, space & measures – Measures (capacity)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 10	N 3	48
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10	N 8	92
			• Counts out up to six objects from a larger group	N 9	102
			• Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects	N 10	111
			• Counts an irregular arrangement of up to ten objects	N 11	120
			• Estimates how many objects they can see and checks by counting them	N 12	126
			• Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects [to 10, then extend to 20]	N 13	133
2	Numbers	Solving problems (doubling and halving)	• Solves problems, including doubling and halving	N 25	218
3	Shape, space & measures	Measures (capacity)	• Orders two items by capacity	SSM 10	319
			• Uses everyday language to talk about capacity to compare quantities and objects to solve problems	SSM 15	349

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 8:

- Shape, space & measures – Measures (time)

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Block 9 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers / Solving problems Shape, space & measures – Shape (2-D & 3-D) / Exploring patterns				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 20	N 4	57
			• <i>Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain</i>	N 5	66
			• <i>Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects [to 10, then extend to 20]</i>	N 13	133
			• Counts reliably with numbers from one to 20	N 14	141
			• Places numbers one to 20 in order	N 15	148
2	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 20	N 4	57
			• <i>Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain</i>	N 5	66
			• <i>Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects [to 10, then extend to 20]</i>	N 13	133
			• Counts reliably with numbers from one to 20	N 14	141
			• Places numbers one to 20 in order	N 15	148
3	Shape, space & measures	Shape (2-D & 3-D)	• <i>Selects a particular named shape</i>	SSM 2	267
			• Explores characteristics of 2-D shapes and uses mathematical language to describe them	SSM 3	274
			• Explores characteristics of everyday objects and 3-D shapes and uses mathematical language to describe them	SSM 4	280
		Exploring patterns	• <i>Uses familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models.</i>	SSM 18	370
			• Recognises, creates and describes patterns	SSM 19	377

Suggested topics to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 9:

- Numbers – Solving problems (doubling and halving)
- Shape, space & measures – Measures (capacity)

Block 10 Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Adding) / Solving problems Numbers – Adding and subtracting (Subtracting) / Solving problems Shape, space & measures – Measures (time)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Adding)	• Says which number is one more or one less than a given number to 20	N 21	192
			• Uses quantities and objects to add two single-digit numbers and count on to find the answer	N 22	198
	Solving problems		• <i>Begins to identify own mathematical problems based on own interests and fascinations</i>	N 24	211
2	Numbers	Adding and subtracting (Subtracting)	• Says which number is one more or one less than a given number to 20	N 21	192
			• Uses quantities and objects to subtract two single-digit numbers and count back to find the answer	N 23	204
	Solving problems		• <i>Begins to identify own mathematical problems based on own interests and fascinations</i>	N 24	211
3	Shape, space & measures	Measures (time)	• <i>Orders and sequences familiar events</i>	SSM 11	324
			• <i>Measures short periods of time in simple ways</i>	SSM 12	330
			• Uses everyday language to talk about time to compare and to solve problems	SSM 16	355

Suggested topics to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 10:

- Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers
- Shape, space & measures – Shape (2-D & 3-D) / Exploring patterns

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Block 11 Numbers – Solving problems (counts in 2s, 5s & 10s) Numbers – Solving problems (grouping) Shape, space & measures – Measures (money)				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Solving problems (counts in 2s, 5s & 10s)	• Counts in 2s, 5s & 10s **	N 26	225
2	Numbers	Solving problems (grouping)	• Solves problems involving grouping **	N 27	235
3	Shape, space & measures	Measures (money)	• Uses everyday language to talk about money to compare quantities and objects to solve problems	SSM 17	361

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 11:

- Shape, space & measures – Measures (time)

** Indicates this unit covers the Early learning goal 'Exceeding Development' descriptor 11: *They solve practical problems that involve combining groups of 2, 5 or 10, or sharing into equal groups.*

Block 12 Numbers – Counting & recognising numbers Numbers – Solving problems (sharing) Shape, space & measures – Space				Choose 'Adult-led' and 'Explore and play' activities from:	
Week	EYFS Aspect of learning	Busy Ant Maths F Topic(s)	40 – 60+ months Early years outcome / Early learning goal	Busy Ant Maths F	
				Unit	Teacher's Guide
1	Numbers	Counting & recognising numbers	• Recognises numerals 1 to 20	N 4	57
			• Records, using marks that they can interpret and explain	N 5	66
			• Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects [to 10, then extend to 20]	N 13	133
			• Counts reliably with numbers from one to 20	N 14	141
			• Places numbers one to 20 in order	N 15	148
2	Numbers	Solving problems (sharing)	• Solves problems involving sharing	N 28	244
3	Shape, space & measures	Space	• Can describe their relative position such as 'behind' or 'next to'	SSM 5	288
			• Uses everyday language to talk about position, distance [and direction] to compare objects and to solve problems	SSM 6	294
			• Uses everyday language to talk about distance to compare objects and to solve problems	SSM 7	301

Suggested topic to continue to 'Explore and play' during Block 12:

- Numbers – Solving problems (counts in 2s, 5s & 10s)
- Shape, space & measures – Measures (money)