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|  | This week we have been thinking about numbers to 6.  |  | We have been doingthis because... |
| We will be playing lots of games that use dice. As well as counting the spots, we will ask children to try and say how many spots there are by recognising the pattern. For example, we will show children the face of a dice and then quickly covered it up. We will ask them to guess what the number was before uncovering the dice and counting together to see if they are right. | we want children to be able to count quickly and accurately. One thing that adults can do is to quickly recognise a small number of objects without having to count. This is called ‘subitising’. It is easier to do this when objects are arranged in a pattern. However, it can be done even when objects are not in a pattern. Remember, even adults cannot subitise numbers that are larger than six or seven! |
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|  | How you canhelp at home | * Give your child small objects, such as buttons, to sort, count and to arrange into patterns.
* Continue to give your child opportunities to count for real reasons, such as collecting the right number of forks to lay the table.
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| * Play ‘Sleeping ladybirds’ with your child. (We will provide you with a gameboard and instructions of how to play.)
* When playing the game with your child, resist the urge to say the number as soon as it is rolled. Give your child time to either count the spots or to process the fact that this is a known pattern of spots. Over time they will be able to shout ‘six!’ as soon as that number is rolled.
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