



Games and activities

Games to practise addition and subtraction

- **Playing skittles**

Make a set of skittles using ten cardboard tubes/plastic bottles which can be knocked over with a soft ball. After each throw talk about the score:

There were ten skittles and we knocked over 6. There are 4 left standing up. 6 and 4 make 10.

- **Make a target game**

Place three or four empty boxes in the floor. Label each box with a number between 1 and 5. Encourage your child to help you to make up rules for the game. How many paper balls can you throw in a turn? How many does the winner of the game need to score altogether?

- **Play a hidden objects game**

This game is a good way of developing the skills your child will need in doing sums 'in their head'. It helps child to imagine numbers of objects.

Place five small objects on a tray; buttons, coins, counters or pebbles etc.

Show your child that there are five objects and count them together. Now cover the objects with a cloth and slide your hand under the cloth to remove one or two of the objects from the tray. Show your child how many objects you have removed and ask:

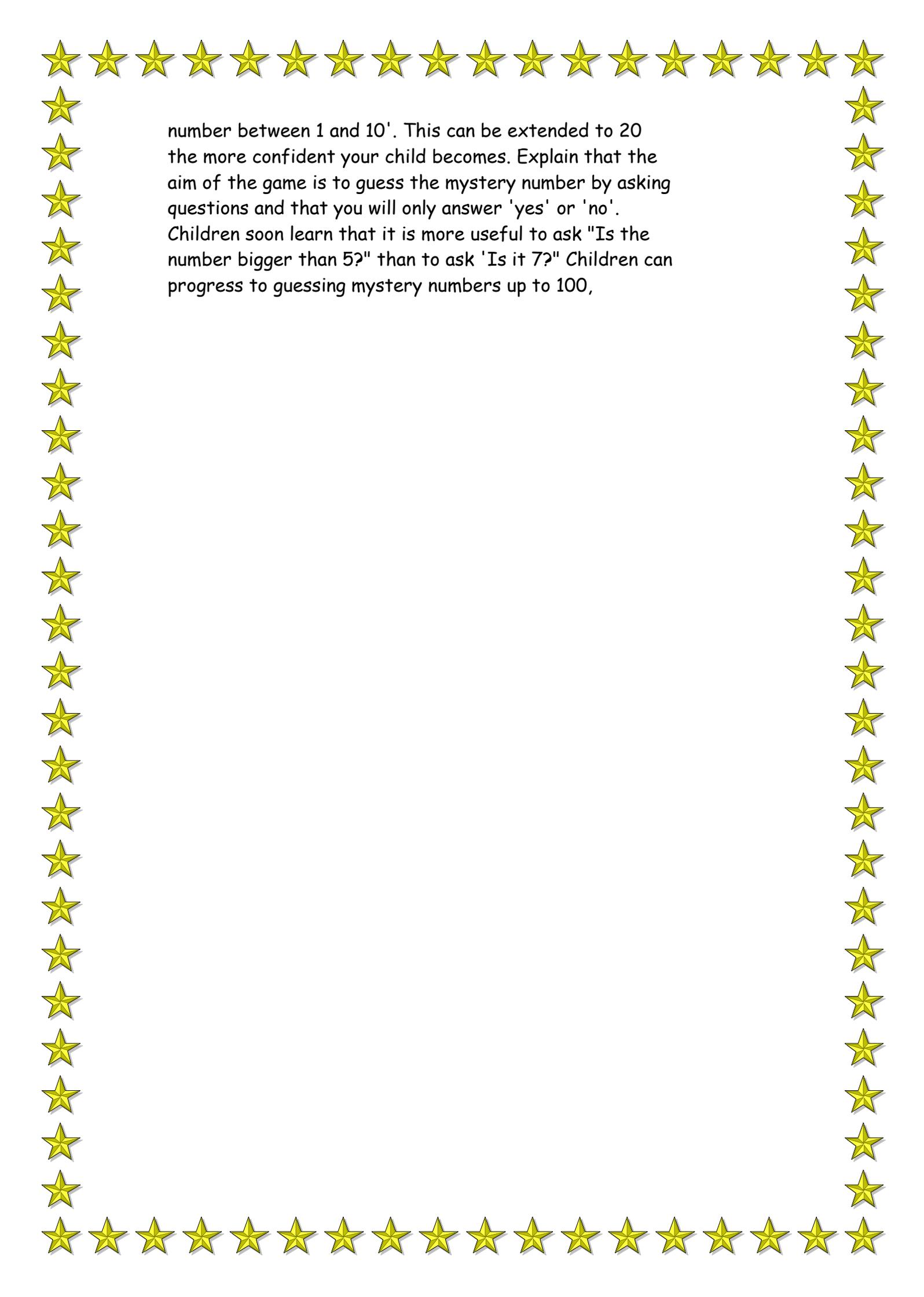
'How many things are left on the tray?'

As your child becomes more confident, start with a larger of objects on the tray. Once the tray is empty replace the objects a few at a time, again by putting your hand under the cover. After each addition ask your child to think how many objects are now on the tray.

- **Guess my number**

This is a useful game for playing on a journey. As your child plays the game they will practise thinking about the order of numbers.

Start the game by saying to your child ' I am thinking of a



number between 1 and 10'. This can be extended to 20 the more confident your child becomes. Explain that the aim of the game is to guess the mystery number by asking questions and that you will only answer 'yes' or 'no'. Children soon learn that it is more useful to ask "Is the number bigger than 5?" than to ask 'Is it 7?' Children can progress to guessing mystery numbers up to 100,