

Reception Maths Autumn 1 Free Taster Pack

Welcome to this free Reception Maths Autumn 1 taster pack. It includes the first five ready-to-teach lessons from the Autumn 1 sequence, giving you a practical sample of the approach, structure and language used across the wider programme. Each lesson is designed for short, focused adult-led teaching and can be delivered in a classroom or home-learning setting using simple, familiar resources.

These lessons introduce early mathematical thinking through matching, sorting and explaining. Children are encouraged to look carefully, talk about what they notice, use key vocabulary and apply their learning through practical activities. The resource suggestions include both classroom materials and everyday household alternatives so the lessons are easy to prepare and accessible for a range of settings.

What's Included

- Five complete Reception Maths lesson plans for Autumn 1
- Learning objectives, success criteria, key vocabulary and resources for each lesson
- Step-by-step adult prompts and practical teaching activities
- Support and challenge suggestions
- A dedicated resource list with home-schooling alternatives

Lesson 1 — Match Objects That Are the Same

Learning objective: To match objects that are the same.

Success criteria: I can find objects that look the same; I can say why they match; I can check my match carefully.

Key vocabulary: match, same, pair, object, look carefully, check, different, because.

Resources: Matching pairs of familiar objects. School examples: pencils, cubes, spoons, toy animals, buttons, cups or shells. Home examples: socks, spoons, cups, toy cars, blocks, shoes or fruit. Also use a basket/tray and one non-matching object.

Timing	Lesson section	Adult says/does	Children do	Check/support/challenge
0-2 minutes	Introduce	Show two matching objects. Say: "Today we are finding things that match. Match means the same. These match because they are the same."	Look, listen and repeat "match".	Support: place objects side by side and point to what is the same.
2-5 minutes	Model	Show one object and three choices. Say: "I need to find the match. Is this the same? No, it is different. Is this the same? Yes, it matches." Put the pair together.	Watch and answer yes/no.	Support: give two choices. Challenge: "How do you know they match?"

5-8 minutes	Guided practice	Choose a new object. Say: "Look carefully. Which one is the same? Point to the match." Model: "They match because they are both _____."	Point, name the match and repeat the sentence stem.	Listen for same, match and because. Challenge: "Why does this one not match?"
8-13 minutes	Main task	Give mixed objects. Say: "Find matching pairs. Put each pair together. Say: 'They match because...' Check carefully."	Find pairs and explain choices.	Support: fewer objects or one pair at a time. Challenge: include similar but not identical objects.
13-16 minutes	Check and correct	Show one correct pair and one wrong pair. Ask: "Do these match? How do you know? What needs fixing?"	Decide, explain and correct the mismatch.	Support: ask "same or different?" Challenge: discuss similar but not the same.
16-18 minutes	Independent check	Say: "Find one matching pair by yourself. Show me and tell me why it matches."	Choose a pair independently and explain.	Assess: can the child match independently and use same or match?
18-20 minutes	Review	Say: "Match means the same. We looked carefully and checked." Ask: "What word means two things are the same?"	Answer and show a pair if available.	Follow-up: use matching baskets in class or find matching socks, shoes, spoons or toys at home.

Lesson 2 — Match Pictures to Real Objects

Learning objective: To match pictures to real objects.

Success criteria: I can look closely; I can match a picture to an object; I can explain what is the same.

Key vocabulary: match, same, picture, object, real, look closely, check, because.

Resources: Pictures or photos of familiar objects and the real objects to match. School examples: cup, pencil, cube, book, toy animal, spoon. Home examples: sock, spoon, cup, shoe, toy, apple. Use a tray/basket and one picture that does not match any object.

Timing	Lesson section	Adult says/does	Children do	Check/support/challenge
0-2 minutes	Introduce	Show a real object and its picture. Say: "Today we are matching pictures to real objects. This picture matches this object because they are the same thing."	Look, listen and repeat "picture" and "object".	Support: hold the picture next to the object.
2-5 minutes	Model	Show one picture and three real objects. Say: "I need to find the real object that matches this picture. Is it this? No. Is it this? Yes, it matches." Put them together.	Watch and answer yes/no.	Support: use two choices. Challenge: "What is the same?"

5-8 minutes	Guided practice	Show a new picture. Say: "Look closely. Which real object is the same as the picture? Point to the match." Model: "They match because they are both ____."	Point, choose the object and repeat the sentence stem.	Listen for same, match, picture and object.
8-13 minutes	Main task	Give mixed pictures and objects. Say: "Match each picture to the real object. Put them together. Say: 'They match because...'. Check carefully."	Match pictures to objects and explain choices.	Support: fewer pairs. Challenge: include similar objects.
13-16 minutes	Check and correct	Show one correct match and one wrong match. Ask: "Does this picture match this object? How do you know? What needs fixing?"	Decide, explain and correct the mismatch.	Support: ask "same or different?" Challenge: explain the difference.
16-18 minutes	Independent check	Say: "Choose one picture. Find the real object that matches. Tell me why it matches."	Choose, match and explain independently.	Assess: can the child match a picture to an object and explain?
18-20 minutes	Review	Say: "A picture can match a real object when it shows the same thing." Ask: "What did we match today?"	Answer and show one match if available.	Follow-up: match photos to objects in class or at home.

Lesson 3 — Sort Objects by Colour

Learning objective: To sort objects by colour.

Success criteria: I can put objects into colour groups; I can name the colour; I can spot an object that does not belong.

Key vocabulary: sort, colour, group, same, different, red, blue, yellow, green, belongs, does not belong, because.

Resources: Mixed coloured objects. School examples: cubes, counters, buttons, bears, pencils or loose parts. Home examples: socks, toys, blocks, spoons, cups or fruit. Use coloured hoops, mats, bowls or paper for sorting groups, plus one object in the wrong colour group.

Timing	Lesson section	Adult says/does	Children do	Check/support/challenge
0-2 minutes	Introduce	Show two objects of the same colour. Say: "Today we are sorting by colour. Sort means put things into groups. These go together because they are the same colour."	Look, listen and repeat "sort" and "colour".	Support: name the colour and point to the matching colour.
2-5 minutes	Model	Place red, blue and yellow mats/bowls. Pick one object. Say: "This is red. It belongs in the red group." Repeat with two more objects.	Watch and say the colour.	Support: use two colours. Challenge: "Why does it belong there?"

5-8 minutes	Guided practice	Hold up an object. Say: "What colour is it? Which group does it belong in?" Model: "It belongs here because it is ____."	Name the colour and place the object in a group.	Listen for colour names and because.
8-13 minutes	Main task	Give mixed coloured objects. Say: "Sort the objects by colour. Put the same colours together. Say: 'This belongs here because...'"	Sort objects into colour groups and explain.	Support: fewer colours. Challenge: sort more colours or make own colour groups.
13-16 minutes	Spot the mistake	Put one object in the wrong colour group. Ask: "Does this belong here? How do you know? Can we fix it?"	Spot, explain and move the object.	Support: ask "same colour or different?" Challenge: explain the sorting rule.
16-18 minutes	Independent check	Say: "Choose three objects. Put each one in the correct colour group. Tell me why."	Sort independently and explain.	Assess: can the child sort by colour and name the colour?
18-20 minutes	Review	Say: "Today we sorted by colour. We put the same colours together." Ask: "What did we sort by today?"	Answer and show one colour group.	Follow-up: sort coloured objects in class or at home.

Lesson 4 — Sort Objects by Size

Learning objective: To sort objects by size.

Success criteria: I can compare big and small objects; I can group objects by size; I can use the words big, small and same.

Key vocabulary: sort, size, big, small, bigger, smaller, same size, group, belongs, does not belong, because.

Resources: Mixed objects in clearly different sizes. School examples: big/small cubes, bears, buttons, blocks, cups or toys. Home examples: big/small socks, spoons, cups, shoes, toys or fruit. Use two hoops, mats, bowls or paper labelled big and small, plus one object in the wrong group.

Timing	Lesson section	Adult says/does	Children do	Check/support/challenge
0-2 minutes	Introduce	Show a big object and a small object. Say: "Today we are sorting by size. Size tells us if something is big or small."	Look, listen and repeat "big" and "small".	Support: hold objects side by side.
2-5 minutes	Model	Place a big group and a small group. Pick one object. Say: "This is big. It belongs in the big group." Repeat with a small object.	Watch and say big or small.	Support: use very different sizes. Challenge: "How do you know?"
5-8 minutes	Guided practice	Hold up an object. Ask: "Is it big or small? Which group does it	Name the size and place the object.	Listen for big, small and because.

		belong in?" Model: "It belongs here because it is ____."		
8-13 minutes	Main task	Give mixed objects. Say: "Sort the objects by size. Put big objects together and small objects together. Say: 'This belongs here because...'"	Sort objects by size and explain.	Support: fewer objects. Challenge: add medium-sized objects or sort from smallest to biggest.
13-16 minutes	Spot the mistake	Put one object in the wrong size group. Ask: "Does this belong here? Why not? Can we fix it?"	Spot, explain and move the object.	Support: ask "big or small?" Challenge: compare two close sizes.
16-18 minutes	Independent check	Say: "Choose three objects. Put each one in the correct size group. Tell me why."	Sort independently and explain.	Assess: can the child sort by size and use big or small?
18-20 minutes	Review	Say: "Today we sorted by size. We made big and small groups." Ask: "What did we sort by today?"	Answer and show one size group.	Follow-up: sort big and small objects in class or at home.

Lesson 5 — Revise Matching and Sorting

Learning objective: To revise matching and sorting.

Success criteria: I can match objects; I can sort by colour or size; I can explain my rule.

Key vocabulary: match, sort, same, different, colour, size, big, small, group, rule, belongs, because.

Resources: Mixed familiar objects with some matching pairs and objects in different colours and sizes. School examples: cubes, counters, buttons, bears, pencils or loose parts. Home examples: socks, toys, spoons, cups, shoes or fruit. Use trays, hoops, mats, bowls or paper for groups.

Timing	Lesson section	Adult says/does	Children do	Check/support/challenge
0-2 minutes	Introduce	Show two matching objects and two different objects. Say: "Today we are revising matching and sorting. Match means same. Sort means put things into groups."	Repeat "match" and "sort".	Support: show matching objects side by side.
2-5 minutes	Quick match	Hold up one object. Say: "Find its match. How do you know?" Model: "They match because they are the same."	Find a matching object and explain.	Support: give two choices. Challenge: explain what is the same.

5-8 minutes	Sort by colour	Show mixed colours. Say: "Now sort by colour. Put the same colours together." Model: "This belongs here because it is ____."	Sort a few objects by colour.	Listen for colour names and because.
8-11 minutes	Sort by size	Show big and small objects. Say: "Now sort by size. Put big objects together and small objects together."	Sort a few objects by size.	Support: use clear big/small examples. Challenge: compare close sizes.
11-15 minutes	Choose a rule	Give mixed objects. Say: "Choose your own sorting rule. You could sort by colour or size. Tell me your rule."	Choose a rule, sort objects and explain.	Support: offer two rules. Challenge: sort the same objects in a different way.
15-18 minutes	Spot the mistake	Place one object in the wrong group. Ask: "Does this belong here? What is the rule? Can we fix it?"	Spot, explain and correct the mistake.	Assess: can the child explain the sorting rule?
18-20 minutes	Review	Say: "Today we matched and sorted. Matching means same. Sorting means grouping by a rule." Ask: "What rule did you use?"	Say their rule and show one group.	Follow-up: match and sort objects in class or at home.

Resources for Lessons 1-5

Lesson	Learning focus	Required resources	Home-schooling alternatives and notes
1	Match objects that are the same	Matching pairs of familiar objects; basket or tray; one non-matching object.	Socks, spoons, cups, toy cars, blocks, shoes or fruit. Add one odd item for checking.
2	Match pictures to real objects	Pictures or photos of familiar objects; matching real objects; tray or basket.	Use phone photos or quick drawings of a sock, spoon, cup, shoe, toy or apple, then match to the real item.
3	Sort objects by colour	Mixed coloured objects; coloured hoops, mats, bowls or paper; one object in the wrong group.	Socks, toys, blocks, spoons, cups or fruit. Bowls or sheets of coloured paper can replace hoops.
4	Sort objects by size	Mixed objects in clearly different sizes; two hoops, mats, bowls or paper labelled big and small.	Big and small socks, spoons, cups, shoes, toys or fruit. Choose objects with obvious size differences.
5	Revise matching and sorting	Mixed familiar objects with matching pairs and items of different colours and sizes; trays, hoops, mats, bowls or paper.	Socks, toys, spoons, cups, shoes or fruit. Ask the child to sort by colour or size.

Cut-Out Picture Cards

Print, cut out and paste or draw a picture in each blank box. The captions are included so children can match, sort and talk about each resource.

Group 1: Matching Objects



sock



sock



shoes



shoes



cup



cup



spoon



spoon



pencils



pencils



toy car



toy car

Group 2: Picture-to-Object Matching



cup



spoon



shoes



sock



toy animal



book



pencil



apple

Group 3: Colour Sorting Cards



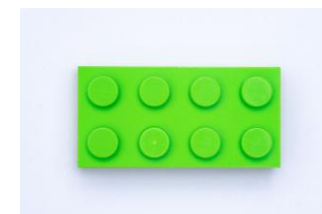
red apple



blue cup



yellow pencil



green block



red sock



blue shoe



yellow toy car



green teddy



red button



blue dice



yellow cup



green spoon

Group 4: Size Sorting Cards



big teddy



small teddy



big cup



small cup



big shoe



small shoe



big apple



small apple

 big block	 small block	 big spoon	 small spoon
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Group 5: Challenge and Odd-One-Out Cards

 no match	 different colour	 different size	 odd one out
 red cup	 blue cup	 big object	 small objects