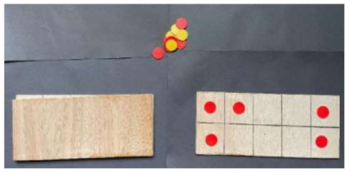
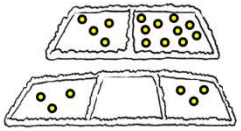
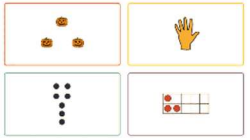
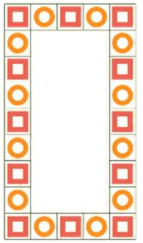
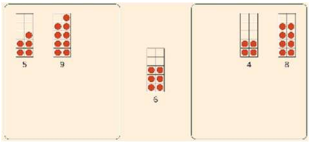
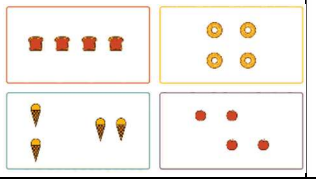
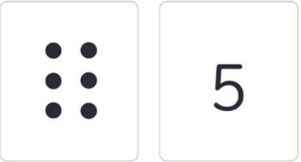
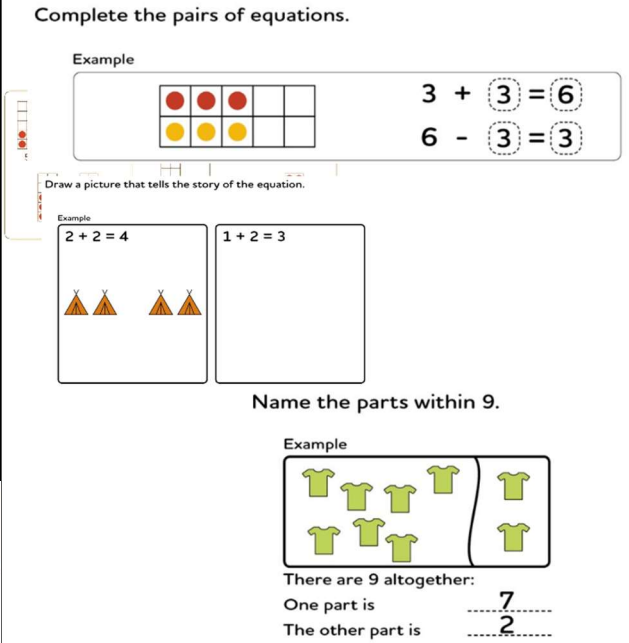
Comparison & Numerical Patterns

Knowing numbers are made up of two or more other smaller numbers involves 'part–whole' understanding. Learning to 'see' a whole number and its parts at the same time is a key development in children's number understanding. Partitioning numbers into other numbers and putting them back together again underpins understanding of addition and subtraction as inverse operations.

	Concrete	Pictorial	Abstract
Comparison & Numerical Patterns	Copying arrangements  Making 7 in different ways Odds and evens Number bonds to 5 – finding what is missing. Set of 4 (or 5, or 3). How many are hidden? A practical context for practising 'number bonds to 5' and assessing children's number bond knowledge. Add some puppets, make a story context.	Recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. Halving and doubling, making inverse links.  Matching Pairs  Repeating patterns  Odds and Evens  Equal Distribution 	Comparing two numbers, using a range of comparative language: greater than, bigger than, larger than, smaller than, less than and equal to