## How to support:

# Your child's understanding of "How many"

## What are "WH-" questions?

These are questions that contain the following question words; "who", "what", "what is X doing" "where", "when", "why", "how", "what like". Some of these "wh" question words are more abstract and children develop their understanding of these later e.g. "why". When we add "many" and "much" to the "how" question, it becomes a question about quantity. Answers to these questions are either specific numbers or other quantity words like "a little", "a lot", etc.

Below are some ideas for supporting understanding of; "how many".

## Strategies

- **Build opportunities into everyday moments** – using what the child sees, does, hears everyday e.g. natural opportunities to count "how many".
- **Use visual support** - gesture, objects, photographs, symbols.
- **Use a multisensory approach** i.e. different sensory elements throughout activities where possible – look, feel, listen, smell etc.
- **Use items/games the child enjoys** and build in counting opportunities to keep the activity motivating.

## Activities

Explain to the child that the "how many" question is about the amount e.g. "how many" means what number there is.

**Objects/pictures:**
Use objects/pictures that you have more than one of e.g. toy cars, food, game pieces etc. Put one down in front of your child and say, "how many _____ are there?". Have the child count and tell you there is one. Then place a few more in front of the child and ask again. Help them count again and tell you the correct number. Make sure you don't place more objects out than the child is able to count. Keep doing this until the child can tell you the correct number every time you say, "how many".