# Getting to grips with equations

Using resources to represent numbers in equations

## Great for...
- **Maths** numbers and algebra

## Activity

**1** In your school grounds explain that you are going to replace numbers with different natural objects such as stones, sticks and leaves.

**2** Give the children a key showing the value of each feature – for example, stone = 1, stick = 2, leaf =5.

**3** Give the children five laminated symbols each, including -, +, x, ÷ and = and some numbers that are the 'answers' to equations. Their task is to find the natural resources they need to create the right equation. For example, if stones are worth one each, sticks two each, leaves five and the answer to get to is 10, the equation could be 2 stones + 4 sticks, or 1 stick x 1 leaf.

## What you need
- **Laminated cards with pictures of items** that can found in the grounds and their numerical value
- **Laminated cards showing simple mathematical symbols** such as -, +, x, ÷ and =

## Preparation
- Practise doing simple equations using -, +, x, ÷ and =.

## Less challenging
- Keep the answers simple and offer only two or three mathematical symbols.

## More challenging
- Ask the children to see how many different equations they can create for each total set.
- Offer the children a wider range of symbols including < and > to make the equations more interesting.

## Your notes
Use this space to evaluate the activity

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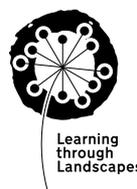
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