

## Number: Uses of number – Suggestions for the learning environment

### IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- Use analogue and digital clocks or watches to demonstrate how numbers are used to tell time.
- Display a large classroom calendar where children can see numbers used to represent days, weeks, and months. Mark and/or count-down to significant dates such as birthdays and holidays.
- Provide play money (coins and notes) to simulate real-life transactions. Use it in a classroom store or for activities where children practice counting money and making purchases.
- Set up a 'measurement lab' and have rulers, metre sticks, measuring tapes, and measuring cups available for children to measure the length/weight/capacity of objects like books, desks, or ingredients in cooking activities.
- Assign classroom jobs based on a rotating schedule, helping children to understand order and sequence.
- Create a number line on a wall or on the floor using numbered cards or markers. This helps children visualise and understand number sequences and relative sizes.
- Use tallies, numerals, simple bar graphs or pictograms to display data relevant to the classroom, such as favourite colours, pets, or teams. Discuss how numbers are used to organise and interpret information.
- Label classroom items with numbers, such as book bins, cubbies, or hooks. This reinforces number recognition and organisation skills.
- Create visual sequences or step-by-step guides with numbered steps for classroom routines or activities, such as lining up, completing assignments, or cleaning up.
- Incorporate numbers into art projects where children create collages, patterns, or designs using numbered shapes, stickers, or stamps.
- Display images containing multiple numbers, e.g., screenshots of online tv guides, video games, train timetables or school calendars.



### IDEAS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

- Visit a local shop and encourage children to observe the use of numbers in the shop and the significance of these numbers, e.g., finding out prices, quantities, etc.
- Use numbers to identify the measurements for ingredients like flour, sugar and milk to make treats like delicious cakes and cookies. Measuring items involves recognising small and large numbers and quantities. Also make use of a timer to make sure they're baked just right!
- Explore how interior designers, plumbers, carpenters, tilers, painters, athletes, etc. use numbers in their work.
- Explore how numbers are used when we take a journey, e.g., when we take the bus or train we need to use maths to check the schedules, choose the correct bus/train/flight, buy tickets and plan the best route.
- When going on walks or trips outside of the school, highlight the varied use of numbers in the local area and their function, e.g., car registrations, speed and other road signs, building numbers, prices, etc.

