

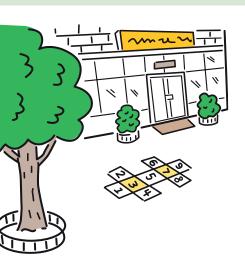
NCCA Primary Mathematics Toolkit – Support material

Number: Numeration and counting - Suggestions for the learning environment

IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- Create a classroom culture where there are opportunities for ideas and strategies to be shared and made explicit with peers.
- Set up a table with various math manipulatives like counters, dienes, number lines, abacus, and different tools that children can access and use during independent or group activities.
- Give children opportunities to reason and show their thinking by providing a range of manipulatives (physical or virtual).
- Identify and utilise opportunities to discuss estimating and counting in activities throughout the school day, e.g., how many pencils do we need for the red table? How many children are present/absent today?
- Provide a 'Maths Games' station with a variety of number games and puzzles, such as number bingo, counting card games, or number matching activities, to engage children in playful counting and numeration activities.
- Incorporate brief numeration and counting activities into daily routines, such as morning meetings or transition times, to reinforce concepts consistently.
- Provide children with a range of engaging and playful counting activities that support the development of conceptual understanding and fluency, e.g., reciting poetry, singing songs, card games such as Snap and 'Higher or Lower', board games such as Snakes and Ladders and Connect 4, etc.





IDEAS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

- Introduce challenges that take place beyond the classroom, e.g., pair up with another class to take part in a counting scavenger hunt, to foster a sense of excitement and achievement in numeracy skills.
- Take children on a nature walk where they can count various objects they find, such as trees, flowers, or rocks. Encourage them to record their counts using tally marks, numbers, etc. in a
- Create a maths trail in the schoolyard or local community such as in a local park or playground with stations where children engage in counting activities, such as counting steps, counting the number of swings in a playground, or tallying the number of birds they see.
- Organise maths games outdoors where children play numerationthemed games like hopscotch with numbered squares, bean bag toss with numbered targets, or a counting relay race.
- Explore and discuss how numbers are used in the wider world, e.g., for recording scores in sports, in retail, in architecture and design, in recording information and statistics, etc.





