

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 journal.
- 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 numeration-themed 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.*

