

Numicon

Numicon® is a practical multi-sensory resource for teaching key mathematical concepts.

The teaching materials are designed to combine:

- seeing
- feeling
- learning (language)
- action / activity

The images are designed to help children see connections between numbering and manipulating the images.

There is a Numicon® pattern/shape to represent numerals 1-10. These patterns are structured so that number relationships can be seen in a way not provided by written numerals.

General principles

The foundation pack addresses seven key areas which are essential to developing later success in a number

1. pattern
2. order
3. counting
4. moving beyond counting (seeing numbers as a whole)
5. place value
6. addition
7. subtraction

Play - It is important to allow the children to have opportunities to explore numicon® freely before using it in a directed way, as the children play, they will be seeing and using the relationships between the shapes.

Language - Children should be encouraged to use mathematical language as they go through the activities to explain their thinking.

Orientation - Numicon® base plates should always be orientated with the extra piece to the left as shown below.



Repeat the activities as often as necessary – Children need time to fully understand the abstract nature of mathematical ideas.

Making connections – It is important to make connections between work with numicon® plates and other everyday items thus enriching their concept image for numbers (see the 'making connections' section on each of the cards)

Teaching checklist

- First explain the activity to the children – what they are going to do – 'let the children in on the secret' (the aim of each activity is shown on the card)
- Remember to use the appropriate mathematical language you are modelling through the activity.
- Check that the children can see and hear what you are doing.
- Work near the number line and refer to it as you are working
- Encourage the children during the activities by praising their efforts.
- At the end reinforce the aim by recapping what the children have done and asking them to explain

Useful References and Links

[Numicon guide for parents | Oxford Owl](#)

[Numicon, Primary School Maths Resources \(oup.com\)](#)

Resources available at CCC Ocyps Support for Learning-Shared-C&L New Tidy Up folder-MATHS-Numicon