

Counting and Number Recognition Games and Ideas

These ideas are not comprehensive by any means. They are commonly ones we use in groups at numeracy time or one to one to monitor a child's development. Please do not do them all in one go, just one every day for example. You can use them as a stepping stone to further learning too. Number flash cards can be used to make a number line or number track if you have them but equally you could make one too.

I have tried to add an image which tries to explain visually what the activity comprises of.

Objective

- Counting to 10
- Matching a small number of objects to a numeral

You will need 10 blank pieces of card or paper. Stickers, images cut from magazines or pens.

Lay the 10 pieces of paper/card onto a table or the floor. Point to the first card, draw a number 1 on the card. Ask your child to add a picture or sticker to the card that matches the number you have drawn.

Keep going to 10.

Encourage your child to say each number as they stick the images down to ensure that they understand what they are counting.

Keep these cards as you will be able to use these cards to encourage your child to count the pictures.



The image above is using a large piece of paper, you can follow this or use individual cards.

Objective

- Matching a small number of objects to a numeral

You will need several pairs of socks (rolled into pairs). Some cards or pieces of paper with numerals on (1 to 10), a whiteboard, chalkboard or some more paper.

Lay or line up the numbers from 1 to 10 (like a number line).

Ask your child to unroll a pair of socks. Ask how many socks do they have? Count them together, 'one, two'. Match the count by touching the number line. Encourage the counting of each number 'one, two'.

Draw two socks on the whiteboard/chalkboard/paper and write the numeral 2 under the pair of socks.

Give your child 2 pairs of socks and repeat as above, each time encouraging your child to touch the number line as they count.

Repeat for three, four and five pairs of socks.



Here is a simple number line – it doesn't need to be hands though.

A number line from 0 – 20 is very useful to have around the home. It can be a piece of wool or string and pegs to hold the numbers or could be blue tak onto a wall or door.

Once a number line is established and your child is comfortable using it you can ask them to find an individual number or ask them what comes next? Or what comes before?

Objective

- Counting to 10
- Matching a small number of objects to a numeral

You will need the number cards you have made or the number line laid on the floor. You will also need lots of toys such as cars, dolls, people, small soft toys, pens

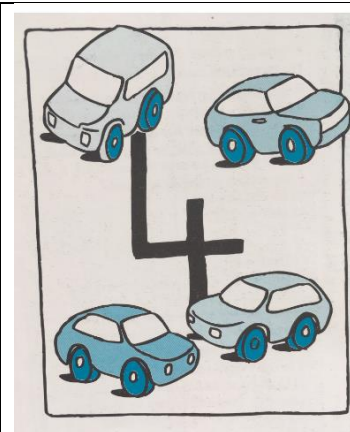
Lay the numbers along the floor to make a number track.

Put a toy onto a number, 4 for example. Ask 'what number is the toy on?' Count along the number track to check, encouraging your child to touch each number as they count to 4.

Now ask your child to put onto this number the correct number of toys i.e. 4 cars (including the toy that was originally there).

Write the number '4' in the air, encouraging your child to do the same. Or show the correct number of fingers.

Repeat until all the numbers have toys on.



Objective

- Counting to 10
- Counting on from a given number less than 6

You will need a number line 1 to 10 (using pegs or stuck to a wall) and a teddy bear or soft toy.

Firstly, count along the number line – using Teddy to count from 1 to 10.

Unpeg any number that is less than 6. Ask your child what number you have removed? Check by counting along the number line until you have reached that number. Ask what number comes after the number that is missing.

Repeat with other numbers. Increase from 6 to 10 once numbers under 6 are mastered.

Repeat this exercise and other numeracy activities in short sharp bursts.

Like everything else,
in order for us to be
good at something,
we have to practice.

Jennifer McAlister

Objective

- Counting to 10
- Counting on from a given number less than 6

You will need number cards to form a number track along the floor.

Lay the numbers on the floor.

Ask your child to count along the track, touching each numeral as they say each numeral.

Turn over numbers 6,7 and 8.

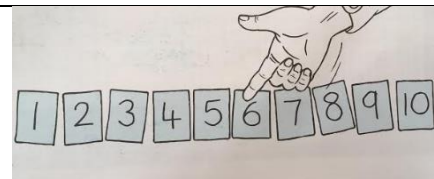
Point to number 5 card. Ask what this number is. If your child is uncertain, encourage them to count up to it from the start of the track from number 1.

Point to the number 5. Point to the first hidden number and say *'so the next number must be....?'* The next number is six.

Ask your child to turn over the card to check that the next number is 6.

Repeat, to reveal the remaining numbers.

Repeat, but turning over numbers 4,5,6 and 7.



Objective

- Counting on from a given number less than 6

You will need a dice.

Throw the dice. Encourage your child to say what the number is.

Ask what the next number is.

You can vary this activity by asking your child to show the dice number with fingers and to raise one more finger, then say the next number.

