

Part-whole mats for 8, 9 and 10

These three part-whole mats (for 8, 9 and 10) help children explore composition of number: splitting a whole quantity into two parts, and seeing that the same whole can be made of different pairs of parts. They give practitioners a flexible resource for carpet time modelling, small-group adult-led sessions, and continuous provision, supporting children to build a deep understanding of numbers to 10 and to notice patterns such as doubles and equal sharing.

How to use

- Carpet time: place the mat with 10 as the whole on the floor and share out 10 teddies, shells or conkers between the two parts in different ways each time, saying the matching sentence aloud, for example '5 and 5 make 10' or '6 and 4 make 10'.
- Continuous provision: leave the 8-mat and 9-mat out with a tray of loose parts (buttons, pebbles, pom-poms) so children can freely split the whole into two parts during child-led play and talk about what they notice.
- Small-group adult-led session: give each child the same mat and a set of counters matching its whole; ask them to make a different split from their neighbour, then compare mats to see how many different ways the group found together.
- Pattern spotting: use the 10-mat with a group and ask children to look for pairs of parts that swap places, such as '3 and 7' and '7 and 3', to build the idea that addition can happen in any order.
- Doubles and equal sharing: on the 8-mat, encourage children to try splitting the whole into two equal parts and talk about whether this is possible, linking to the idea of some numbers sharing equally and some not.
- Zero and take away: on the 10-mat, start with all 10 objects in one part and move them one at a time into the other part, saying each new fact, including when one part is empty, for example '0 and 10 make 10' or '10 and 0 make 10'.
- Role play and real contexts: use the mats during snack time or tidy-up, for example sharing out pieces of fruit or pairs of socks between two children, then recording the split on the matching mat with real objects rather than drawings.





