

Numeral cards 0 to 8

This set of 9 numeral cards (0 to 8) supports the Reception maths unit on composition of numbers to 8. Practitioners use the cards to label amounts, prompt part-whole thinking, and help children see the different ways numbers up to 8 can be split and combined. The cards work alongside everyday continuous provision resources (loose parts, ten frames, counters, fingers) rather than on their own, and suit carpet time, small-group work and independent play across all four sessions in the unit.

How to use

- Carpet time starter: hold up a numeral card (for example 6) and ask children to show that many fingers, claps or jumps, then ask 'how many more to make 8?' for session s1.
- Ten frame matching: place a numeral card next to a ten frame showing that many dots and invite children to check they match, then find the card for how many more spaces are empty up to 8.
- Part-whole hiding game: show the numeral card for 7, hide some counters under a cloth and some in view, and ask children to work out how many are hidden so the parts make 7, linking to session s2.
- Every way to make 8 trail: lay the numeral cards 0 to 8 along the floor or a washing line and ask pairs of children to find two cards whose amounts make 8 together, moving along the trail as they go, for session s3.
- Treasure basket pairing: children pick a numeral card and collect that many natural objects (shells, pine cones, pebbles) from a basket, then combine their collection with a partner's to see if together they make 8.
- Number bonds with a twist: a practitioner says 'I have 4 and I take some away, now I have 0' while children hold up the matching numeral cards in order, supporting the take-away ideas in session s4.
- Role play till or shop: attach numeral cards 0 to 8 to a till drawer or shelf so children match quantities of play items to the correct card during independent play, repeating the vocabulary 'how many' and 'how many more'.
- Sorting hoops: scatter the numeral cards inside hoops around the carpet and ask children to bring an amount of objects (up to 8) to stand in the matching hoop, useful as a quick check during any session.
- Working wall display: pin the numeral cards 0 to 8 in a row at child height so children and practitioners can point to them during discussions about composition, and so children with English as an additional language or SEND have a constant visual reference for the numeral shapes and vocabulary.

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