

Ten frame cards 0 to 9

This set of ten frame cards shows every quantity from 0 to 9, each arranged on a ten frame so children can see the amount at a glance and compare it with a full frame of 9. Practitioners use the cards to support deep understanding of how numbers to 9 are made up of smaller parts, how many more are needed to reach 9, and how a whole can be split into two parts in different ways, linking directly to subitising, part-whole thinking and number bonds within this unit.

How to use

- Carpet time (s1): hold up one ten frame card and ask children to say how many dots they see without counting every one, then ask how many more counters would be needed to fill the frame and make 9.
- Continuous provision (s1): place the ten frame cards next to a basket of counters and empty ten frames so children can match a card, build the same amount, then add more counters to make 9.
- Small world and role play (s2): use the cards showing 7 and 8 as 'order cards' in a shop or café role play, with children splitting the shown amount between two plates, two bowls or two hands to explore different parts that make the same whole.
- Adult-led group work (s3): lay out the ten frame cards from 0 to 9 and ask children to find pairs of cards whose dots together fill two frames to make 9, such as the card showing 2 and the card showing 7, recording each pair they find with real objects.
- Outdoor maths trail (s3): peg the ten frame cards to a washing line or fence and send children to collect that many natural objects, such as pebbles or leaves, then pair children up to combine two collections and check whether they make 9.
- Number bonds game (s4): one practitioner hides part of a group of 9 objects under a cloth while a card shows the full amount; children look at how many are showing and work out how many are hidden, linking to take away and to zero when all 9 are hidden.
- SEND and EAL support: use the cards alongside real objects and matching finger patterns rather than written numerals, and model key vocabulary such as 'more', 'make' and 'altogether' clearly as each card is shown.
- Independent exploration: leave the full set of ten frame cards in the maths area in a feely bag so children can pull one out, say the amount shown, and find a partner card that would make 9 when combined.



