

Number tracks to 30

These three number track cards show the counting sequence in order, split into 1 to 10, 11 to 20 and 21 to 30. Together they let children see and hear the whole pattern of the counting system past 20: the ones words repeating (twenty-one, twenty-two ... twenty-nine) before the tens word changes to thirty. Use them for pointing, counting aloud, counting on, counting back and spotting missing numbers in carpet time, small-group sessions and continuous provision.

How to use

- Carpet time (s1): lay the three tracks end to end along the floor. Children walk the length of the tracks, pointing to each numeral and counting aloud from 1 to 30, listening out for what comes after 20.
- Adult-led group (s1 and s4): place a leaf, button or bean bag over one numeral on the 21 to 30 track. Children say what is hidden by using the numbers either side, e.g. cover 24 and ask what comes after 23.
- Continuous provision: peg the tracks along a low washing line or fence at child height so children can touch each numeral and count along during free play, alone or with a friend.
- Adult-led group (s2): put the 11 to 20 and 21 to 30 tracks side by side. Run a finger down each column of ones digits to show the repeating pattern, and talk about why the word changes to thirty after twenty-nine.
- Outdoor play: stick the tracks along a path or use them as a hopscotch line. Children jump from number to number counting aloud, pausing at 20 and 30 to notice the pattern changing.
- Adult-led group (s4): turn two or three cards on the 21 to 30 track face down. Children use one more and one less (for example, one less than 30 is 29) to work out the hidden numbers before turning them back over.
- Small group or 1:1: start at 30 on the track and count back together to 21, then carry on back along the 11 to 20 and 1 to 10 tracks, pointing to each numeral as it is said.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----