

Interactive number line

Make your own interactive number line that the children can use to develop their counting skills! Using open-ended resources will help to show the children that you can count anything.

Learning aims

- Have fun with numbers
- Learn to count using one to one correspondence.

Resources

You won't need all of these, but here are some resource ideas:



- Selection of materials such as pebbles, wooden discs, shells, plant pots and boxes
- Sharpies or paint
- Wooden numbers
- Card and glue with feathers, leaves, conkers, seed pods etc. to make number lines
- Camera and printer (for children's faces or finger number lines).

Activity outline

- Start by setting up a number line that children can move around and use in all areas of their play. This may be small discs of wood, pebbles, wooden numbers or pictures of the children holding up the numbers of fingers for each number - the opportunities are endless
- Whatever you choose, include the children in the design. This is part of the learning curve and also helps the children to engage more
- Place the number line in an area where the children can access them freely. If you use laminated pictures or numbers, ensure you do not stick these down as children will not be able to move them in their play
- A simple activity to support children to fully understand number order is to manipulate the number line so that they are out of order or one number is missing. Children can then place them back in the correct order and discover which is missing
- Once you have your number line use this to support your teaching of one-to-one counting. Use a variety of loose parts for the children to choose freely and ask them to put the correct number of items on each number. Count together as you place them
- Revisit this once you have placed back all the items and count them again together.