

Ideas for Foundation Settings

Here are just some of the ideas for using Numicon that teachers have shared with us – remember too to try the ‘Making connections’ ideas on the Foundation Kit activity cards. Please share any other ideas with us and we will post them on our website.

Using Numicon around the Foundation setting

Pressing the Numicon shapes into wet sand to make patterns
 Pressing the Numicon shapes into playdough to make patterns
 Put Numicon shapes into the water tray
 Printing e.g. to make a table cloth, to make a picture

Exploring numbers - leave Numicon shapes and baseboards out on interactive display about particular number, e.g. for a display about ‘four’ put out the baseboard, 4-shapes, 3- shapes, 1- shapes, along with other images of 4. Change number on display from time to time.

Have Numicon shapes available for children to use in fantasy play – we have seen children using them in fantasy play like ... using them to ‘fry’ in a frying pan in a home corner; arranging them to make a door bell for a baker’s shop in role play; children singing number rhymes in their play and holding Numicon shapes for the number in the rhyme. Children will find lots of other ways of using them.

Using Numicon picture overlays as a model – encouraging children to make their own pictures with Numicon shapes on the floor or on a whiteboard

Make giant Numicon shapes out of card and paint them – then play ordering games matching games etc.

Simple sorting/matching activities pegs and Numicon shapes

e.g. small boxes with lids labelled with a Numicon shape and/or numeral into which children Numicon shapes

Using small bags from washing powder tables containing a Numicon shape. Children find all the matching Numicon shapes to fill their bag

Sorting pegs threading pegs of one colour onto bootlace

Matching Numicon shapes onto display number line 1-10 laid out on table – on wall

Have shapes 1-5 in feely bag and 1-5 shapes on table. Children take turns to choose a shape and then feel in the bag for the matching shape.

Outside

Paint Numicon Numicon shapes onto playground (alternatively scan Numicon shapes onto card and laminate) Adult calls out number - children on space hoppers bounce to the shape.

Have ready bean bags for each child. Adult calls out number children run to shape and put the correct number of bean bags on the shape.

Label buckets with pictures of Numicon shapes, use beanbags or balls to play games with these

Counting - To encourage children to connect 'number names' or counting to Numicon shapes

Label containers with a Numicon shape, children count the relevant number of various objects into containers

Make a big class number book with a page for each number each page showing the number, set of objects, Numicon shapes, number line from 1-10 along the bottom with the relevant numeral highlighted:

Labelling sets of objects with a Numicon shape alongside or instead of written numeral

Make a number frieze using children's own drawings - showing for each number collections of drawings, numeral and Numicon shape

Finding a Numicon shape from feely bag, matching pegs to holes then put filled Numicon shapes in order

Counting different objects into the holes in the Numicon shapes

Moving from counting to seeing the Numicon patterns as whole numbers

Making patterns of the Numicon Numicon shapes with other objects e.g. bears, cubes, counters etc.

Making numerals out of plasticene with the matching Numicon pattern made of little balls of plasticene.

Matching Numicon Numicon shapes to number rolled on dice

Number cards placed face downwards in centre of table, children take it in turns to take a card from top and place alongside correct plate. First child to get all numbers 1-10 is winner.

Story songs and rhymes

Use Numicon shapes to illustrate number songs and rhymes as you sing, e.g. five little ducks, four, three, two

Use the Numicon shapes on labels around the Class to show how many children can play in sand etc.

Circle Time (small group or can get boring!)

Pass the feely bag full of Numicon shapes round group

Each child takes a plate and conceals it

Adult calls out a number (or a colour depending on stage of children) and those children hold up their shape (stand up and come to the middle etc)

This activity could be varied in lots of ways as children progress e.g. call out a number or show a shape and asks children who have bigger shape to hold them up, smaller shape, the same shape.

Repeating patterns

Threading pegs onto bootlace in simple repeating patterns (Numicon sells thick bootlaces for this purpose)

Using pegs on baseboard to make patterns

To encourage visual discrimination teacher makes row of pegs children copies, vary orientation of row, e.g. not always from left to right, start right to left and diagonals starting from different places.