Numeracy with Numicon in Early Childhood

The Numicon programme helps children learn about numbers and what you can do with them through play.

Numicon is an inclusive, multi-sensory approach to teaching numeracy using patterns to represent each numeral. Numicon shapes are designed to exploit three of young children’s key strengths:

- **Learning from doing**
- **Learning from seeing**
- **A strong sense of pattern**

The shapes are designed to help children manipulate, to observe and notice, and to explore patterns.

Mathematically Numicon shapes are designed to help children see connections between numbers through manipulating and making connections between the shapes.

Numicon provides a huge range of number experiences to help children develop mathematical ideas. We want children to develop the richest and broadest concepts of number and number relationships possible!

The programme begins with play, exploration and guided learning experiences with 1st Steps and moves to a more structured approach to prepare children for school with Firm Foundations.

**Early childhood programmes**
- 1st Steps with Numicon in the Nursery
- 1st Steps with Numicon at Home
- Firm Foundations and Closing the Gap (For children with special needs)
- Numicon at the Seaside

The goals of Te Whariki are firmly aligned with the pedagogy in Numicon

The programme reaches through to the primary years supporting the NZ Curriculum with ease using many of the same strategies.

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**Key Ideas:**
- Pattern
- Order
- Counting
- Comparison
- Numerals
- Place value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Reasoning about numbers

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**Training provided**
- On line support
- Many free downloads

**Enjoyed by increasing numbers of centres and schools in New Zealand**

www.numicon.co.nz

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**There’s no magic in the plastic...**

Proven
Research-based
International success
Inclusive

Moving beyond counting
The Numicon programme at Early Childhood level draws children into learning through play.

Different settings are the focus for learning with meaningful activities in water, sand, toys, story and song, solving real life problems, art and craft, even fun in the garden!

1st Steps in the Nursery includes guidelines for teachers to engage children on a one-to-one basis or in small groups to draw them into thinking mathematically. Language and conversation tips give teachers confidence in how to help their children think mathematically.

Firm Foundations is a great step into more formalised learning to prepare the children for school, but it is still based on fun, games and engaging learning activities. Your children will go off to school with confidence in their early learning experiences.

For students with learning needs the parallel programme provides them with a more explicit set of activities, supporting them in the inclusive environment – they can learn alongside their friends using Closing the Gap.

Families can participate in the learning too using their own box of fun- 1st Steps with Numicon at Home. It is written with parents in mind. The equipment in this box will help their children with maths all the way through to secondary school in algebra.

Numicon at the Seaside uses song, dance and movement to further explore number values, counting, position on a number line, numbers as words, numerals and random arrangements for the number. It’s fun! A CD accompanies this Big book or smaller book for home.

Procon Ltd
P O Box 128542
Auckland
1541
0 800 678 581 or 09 520 4022
margi@numicon.co.nz