

Number Sense

Number sense is understanding numbers and the relationships between numbers.

In the early years, developing number sense includes recognising, reading and interpreting numbers; sharing, counting on and trusting the count with whole numbers; and understanding such concepts as more, less, least and most.

CURRICULUM

Early Years Learning Framework Links (EYLF):

- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

NSW Mathematics Syllabus

Demonstrates an understanding of how whole numbers indicate quantity. (MAE-RWN-01)

Reads numerals and represents whole numbers to at least 20. (MAE-RWN-02)

Learning Progressions (LPs)

FAMILIES

READ



2 min

Developing a range of numeracy skills including number sense, numeracy skills early gives children a foundation for their learning and development. It prepares them for daily life, including general problem solving and critical thinking.

Number and algebra for young children involves exploring mathematical concepts such as patterns, symbols, and relationships. A large part of learning in this area involves using numbers in everyday contexts, counting objects and understanding how the numbers combine and connect to describe the world and help to make meaning of their world.

Incorporate counting into everyday activities to build confidence and prepare your child for daily life.

EXPLORE



10 min

Some ideas for learning in the everyday

- Grow traditional bush tucker foods in your garden and use these ingredients in your cooking with your child.
- Provide implements to draw in sand or dirt or use sticks. Use leaves and gumnuts on the ground to create patterns or practise counting.
- Use native herbs such as lemon myrtle or wattle seed in playdough.
- Use the world around you to notice number, shape, measurement and patterns. How far away is that mountain? How long is the river? How many stars are there in the sky?

TEACHERS

REFLECT



30 min

Reflect on your knowledge and practice.

Consider the EYLF, NSW Syllabus and LPs:

- Where have these children come from?
- Where are you taking them?

Think about the learning that happens in your classroom that builds the knowledge and skills for number sense.

What do you expect from the early learner?

What do you want parents to know about number sense?

How is number sense used across the curriculum?

Consider this skill What are the connections between literacy and numeracy?

This is an opportunity to share what number sense looks like in your classroom.

ENGAGE



45 min

Engage in a learning conversation with parents.

Is there anything in the video that challenged your thinking about learning?

What foundational number sense skills do you see in the video?

How are the children:

- Practising their skills?
- Testing their ideas?
- Building their knowledge?

Share what number sense looks like in your classroom.

What opportunity can you create or do you have at home that develops number sense?