

# An Introduction to Numicon



## Numicon

### What is Numicon?

Children's early experiences at home have a huge impact on their later achievements in maths. Numicon is designed to give children an early understanding of number ideas and number relationships that are essential for success in maths. It is a multi-sensory approach using apparatus to focus on imagery, action and conversation.

Throughout the school the children are encouraged to use numicon to solve problems including

- ♦ Which number is bigger/smaller?
- ♦ Adding
- ♦ Subtracting
- ♦ Number bonds to 10
- ♦ Place value

## Numicon

### Activities

#### 7– Marbles

How many marbles can you place in each numicon piece? Challenge your child to take a handful of marbles and get them to find which numicon piece they will fit into exactly.



## Numicon

### Activities

#### 5—Rubbings

Hide the numicon pieces under a piece of paper or foil and challenge your child to work out which one is underneath by rubbing on top of the paper or foil.



#### 6— Playdough

Push a numicon piece into the playdough. Ask your child to find the numicon piece that made the pattern. Ask them to count the bumps and see if they can find two smaller pieces that would cover the same pattern.



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### Activities to do at home

Below are a list of activities that can be done at home with your child. It is not an exhaustive list but they will help you and your child to become more familiar with the numicon and provide opportunities to develop early mathematical conversations.

Some of the activities below can be used with the cards provided or if your feeling creative you could create your own numicon blocks from thick cardboard (old cardboard boxes make excellent material), which you can then use with the more creative activities.

The most vital objective of the numicon cards though is that the children recognise each one by shape and number, matching it to it's corresponding number as this will vastly improve their pace and confidence in their work at school.



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### Activities

#### 1– Treasure Hunt

Place the cards around the room, in the sand pit or around the garden and challenge your child to find the numicon with 5 holes. Once found challenge them to find the numicon with 2 holes and so on.

Alternately place the cards and then challenge them to see how many you can both find. Once you have all 10 come back together and name which numicon you have.

To extend this even further, 'who has the most?' Count up how much your numicon cards add up to and the player whose cards add up to the most, wins.

#### 2– Snap

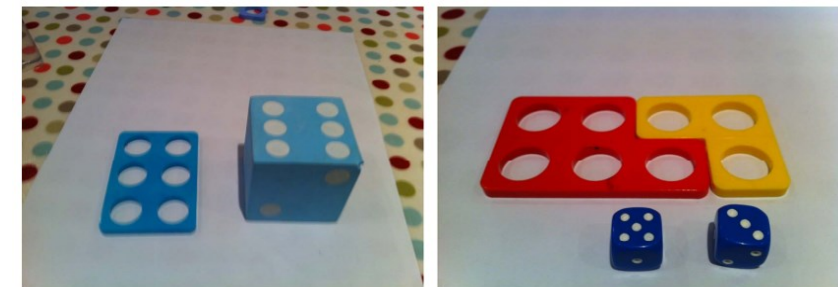
Photocopy the cards so that you have 2 or 3 sets and play snap with them. Once you've said snap though the player must name the numicon shown in order to keep them e.g. does the numicon represent 5, 6, 7 etc?

## Numicon

### Activities

#### 3– Dice games

Roll the dice and match the number shown to the correct numicon card. Extend this by throwing 2 dice, find the correct numicon cards and then adding the two amounts together to see how much your dice add up to.



#### 4– Staircase

Get your child to layout the numicon cards in order of size (do this both from largest to smallest and vice versa) To extend get your child to close their eyes, take one away, and see if they can work out which is missing.

