

Practitioner Pack: Numbers to 10

EYFS · Mathematics · planning, provision & assessment

Lesson-ready notes to support number to 10 in the early years.

For early years practitioners & childminders

Early Learning Goals (current EYFS)

ELG — Number: have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number; **subitise** (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5; automatically recall number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.

ELG — Numerical Patterns: verbally count beyond 20; compare quantities up to 10 (greater than / less than / the same); explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens, odds and double facts.

Key vocabulary

number · count · how many · more · fewer · the same · altogether · one more · one less · subitise · ten-frame · pattern · double · pair

Provision & adult-led ideas

- **Subitising:** flash dot cards / dice (1–5) and ask “how many?” before children can count.
- **Composition:** explore how 5 is “4 and 1”, “3 and 2” with fingers, cubes and ten-frames.
- **Counting:** count real objects (snack time, steps, claps) touching one at a time (one-to-one correspondence).
- **Number bonds:** use ten-frames and part-whole models for bonds to 5, then some to 10 and doubles.
- **Pattern:** sort into evens/odds and “fair shares” to introduce equal distribution.

What to look for (observation & assessment)

Does the child subitise small amounts without counting? Count accurately with one number per object? Say one more / one less? Recall a bond to 5? Keep your own observation record; this PDF does not update a tracker.

SEND & inclusive practice (UDL)

Offer multiple ways in: **concrete** first (real objects, fingers, Numicon), **visual** ten-frames and dot patterns paired with the spoken number (dual coding), and **movement** (count jumps, claps). Pre-teach the words with symbol cards; reduce to numbers within 5; allow extra time and keep sessions short and playful. Always follow the child's SEN support plan and your setting's SENCo guidance (SEND Code of Practice, 2015).

Next steps → Year 1

Secure counting and bonds to 10 lead into Year 1: numbers to 20, addition and subtraction within 10, and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Tracking: ELGs support holistic, best-fit assessment at the end of EYFS. They are not a lesson checklist or the curriculum for younger children. Record observations and next steps yourself.

Reference: current DfE EYFS statutory framework for your provider type: ELG Number and Numerical Patterns.