

Numeral Cards and Counters

Purposes:

- To sequence numerals 1-10
- To associate concrete quantity with abstract numerals
- To provide a visual impression of even and odd numbers
- To provide a means for learning skip counting
- To develop the appropriate vocabulary

Preliminary Exercises:

- Work with number rods, sandpaper numerals and numeral cards
- Use of spindle box
- Number games

Materials:

- White mat, divided into ten sections, of a size to accommodate numeral cards and counters in your environment
- Container of numeral cards with 1 through 9 in green and 10 in blue
- Fifty-five green counters in a container

Procedure:

1. Invite a child to the lesson once the preliminary exercises have been done.
2. Place the cards, counters and mat on a table in front of the child who is seated on your dominant side.
3. Keeping the container in front of the child, have the child spread the mat behind the container and place the cards randomly in a row above the mat, then move the container to the non-dominant side of the mat.
4. Ask the child what comes first when counting and to find that numeral. Indicate placement in far left section of mat.
5. Have the child put one counter under the numeral one, pointing to show placement.
6. Continue by asking the child to place the next numeral to the right of the one. Indicate that counters are placed side by side. After the numeral three is placed, indicate that the third counter is centered under the first two.
7. As soon as it is apparent that the procedure is understood, leave and observe unobtrusively.

Control of Error:

- Exact number of counters
- Mat to ensure correct placement of numerals and counters in columns

Observations:

- Handling of materials
- Placement of mat and cards
- Placement of counters
- Child's reaction to error
- Length of work time and number of repetitions
- Length of period of contemplation
- Degree of interest and concentration

Variations:

- Once it is observed that the child understands the number- numeral concepts, a three period lesson on "odd" and "even" may be taught. There is no isolation for 1st and 3rd periods.
- The teacher moves the cards for the even numbers to the top of the mat. and invites the child to read the even numbers in sequential order, then to read the odd numbers in sequential order.

Vocabulary:

- next next to odd even sequence counters

