

Emergent Numeracy

– number, shape and colour,
pattern and measurement

WHAT IS EMERGENT NUMERACY?

Emergent numeracy refers to the knowledge and skills that precede mathematical learning
– for example: counting, recognising and working with pattern and measurement.

HOW DO LEARNERS DISPLAY SIGNS OF EMERGENT NUMERACY?

- They 'count' – e.g. '1, 3, 4, 10!'
- They tell the 'time' – e.g. 'It is 20 o'clock!'
- They are interested in money and its value.
- They build with shapes.
- They play with puzzles.

ATTITUDES THAT LEARNERS SHOULD DISPLAY AND TEACHERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE (SIGNS OF NUMERACY READINESS)

Learners should:

- Want to count.
- Want to tell the time, wear a watch, etc.
- Want to deal with money.
- Try to write numbers.

CLASSROOM STRATEGIES

You need to create a numeracy environment with opportunities to develop numerical concepts.
The following eight practical ideas and strategies will help develop numeracy skills:

1. COUNT

- Provide rote counting activities, including number rhymes.
- Provide concrete counting activities, use blocks, buttons, bottle tops, etc.
- Count everyday objects, e.g. body parts, windows, desks, chair legs.
- Begin counting in the 1-10 range.

