

The calendar

The morning circle is also a time to look at the calendar. A simple desktop calendar hanging on the wall will work well. Let learners find the day on the calendar and let one of them make a cross through the block.

The calendar provides great numeracy learning opportunities. Ask learners to:

- Look at the date (the numeral) and read it.
- Count the days that are crossed off.
- Say how many days have passed this month.
- Count the open days.
- Say how many days are left in the month.
- Count how many days to the weekend.

WORK TIME

Before learners arrive at school, set up your Learning Areas for the day. (See page 2 of this Teacher's Guide for ideas.) Carefully plan the activities you set out. Make sure they relate to the theme and that they fulfil the Assessment Standards and Expected Levels of Development that you are working towards.

Plan this time so that there is one teacher-directed activity for you to do (work with small groups of six to eight learners at a time) while the rest of the class has a choice of four or five independent activities to do on their own.

Begin this session with an activity that introduces, builds on or extends concepts and skills within the context of the theme you are working with. You could use a poster, story, discussion, rhyme or song.

VOCABULARY OPPORTUNITIES:

Date	Weekend
Day	Month
Week	Calendar



Next, explain the different activities you have set up at each of the Learning Areas.

Make cards with 'direction words' for each Learning Area. These words will help learners remember what they are meant to do at each table. The cards can be placed on a sentence strip holder in the order in which the learners need to complete the activity. (A document binder works well as a sentence strip holder.) Make sure that learners know how many of them can work at an area at any one time. Let learners choose the activity they want to start at. They can then rotate between the tables in their own time.

Be an active facilitator:

- Observe
- Ask open-ended questions
- Support learners (especially those with barriers to learning)
- Help them resolve conflicts