

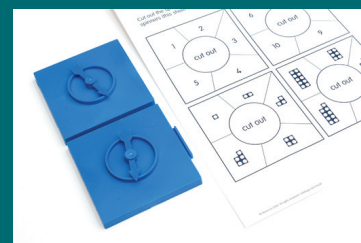
# Getting Started

Pupils with no experience of Numicon will need to start with the first activities in this kit and progress at their own pace. Some may progress to work at the level of their age-peers very quickly; the Activity Extensions are designed for these pupils.

Pupils who take longer to assimilate the ideas in the basic activities will benefit from following the Smaller Steps suggested for each activity.

For pupils who have previously worked with Numicon we suggest that teachers establish the pupil's starting point by using the Assessment Signposts (included in the Assessment Tools).

## What you will find in Closing the Gap with Numicon



### Numicon Shapes and Pegs

The Shapes give pupils a tactile and visual representation of number ideas, the two boxes of Shapes each contain 80 Shapes. The Pegs are designed to fit into the holes in the Numicon Shapes. Please note there are only 4 colours of Pegs, this is because pupils need to move beyond matching by colour.

### Baseboard and Overlays

The Baseboards, designed to hold the Shapes and Pegs, are used in many activities. The Picture Overlays fit over the Baseboard and are used in matching activities. These are useful for early independent work. The Number Fact overlays are used in addition activities.

### Feely Bag

This is a key component! By feeling for Shapes in the Bag, pupils are encouraged to visualize the properties of the Shapes, this helps them to develop their own mental imagery of number.

### Spinners

These are used in various games and activities.

### Numicon Large Format Table Top Number Line

There are two of these included in this Kit. Numicon Number Lines provide a key image for pupils that helps them to connect Numicon Shapes with the image of the number line and understand the value and order of numbers.

### Teaching Materials

This Book contains 4 sections: The Teaching guide, The Programme of Activities, Assessment Tools and Photocopy Masters.

# Teaching Materials

## Section 1: Teaching Guide

This provides suggestions to help teachers make the basic ideas of number accessible to pupils experiencing difficulty. There is also guidance on how to address the underlying difficulties that may hinder pupils' learning. It is strongly recommended that teachers read through the Teaching Guide prior to starting to teach the activities.

## Section 2: Programme of Activities

At the beginning of this section there is a key, which explains the layout of the Activities. This is followed by an Activity Summary, which details the Activity Title, Key mathematical ideas and Aims.

The Programme of Activities is designed to be followed sequentially. However, the first four Activities on Counting and Pattern are ongoing and should run concurrently with the rest of the programme. The remaining Activities can be followed in order, although many of them will need to be repeated often until pupils' understanding is secure. Pupils enjoy repeating the games independently and this gives them useful practice.

## Section 3: Assessment Tools

This section includes three Assessment Tools: Numicon Assessment Signposts, Individual Record of Progress, and Pupil Profile. The pupil profile is used to build a picture of a pupil's strengths and difficulties in order to highlight the mathematical teaching strategies and Numicon Activities that should be used to address these needs.

## Section 4: Photocopy Masters

Resources to be copied and used when teaching the activities, the Photocopy Masters are referenced throughout the Activities.

## Teaching the Activities

The Activities in this Kit are designed to help pupils experiencing difficulty with maths to develop a secure foundation of basic number understanding. Guidance on creating suitable learning environments, structuring teaching sessions and adapting these sessions to meet the needs of individuals may be found in Sections 5 and 6 of the Teaching Guide. The Activities can be used for teaching one to one or for small group work. Each Activity comes with suggestions for smaller steps and ideas for extending the activities, to help teachers provide a suitable level of challenge for each individual. Pupils of any age who are new to Numicon need opportunities to explore and construct their own meaning for the Shapes before they are taught the Activities. Ideas for this early exploration are explained in Activity 1a. We strongly recommend that adults try out each Activity before teaching it for the first time.

## Recording

The Numicon activities are essentially practical. However, suggestions for recording are given when appropriate.

## Training

In the Closing the Gap section of our 'Working with Numicon' training DVD there is an example of a learning support session using Numicon. There are also many suggestions in the Teaching Guide to support teaching approaches and develop teachers' subject knowledge.

For information about live training please get in touch or visit our website [www.numicon.com](http://www.numicon.com).

## Keep in touch

We hope you enjoy teaching with Numicon and would be delighted to know how you get on. Please share your ideas with others via our website, where you will also find information about what is going on, and new products, [www.numicon.com](http://www.numicon.com).