

The Numicon Resources and their benefits to Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) settings:

- Practitioners sometimes find it difficult to think of meaningful maths activities, but practitioners in Southend are now much more aware of the potential for mathematical learning in their setting and are using the Numicon resources in a range of exciting creative ways. In addition to the plastic resources the kit includes an illustrated teaching guide that explains the key mathematical ideas children will meet at this vital stage in their maths understanding and boosts practitioner' maths subject knowledge.
- Concrete, visual, multi sensory equipment that appeals to ALL children.
- Clearly link to recent DCSF documents: [Mark Making Matters: young children making meaning in all areas of development and learning](#), [Children thinking mathematically: PSRN essential knowledge for Early Years practitioners](#) and most recently [Numbers and Patterns: Laying foundations in mathematics](#) a resource for EYFS into YR1.
- By using the Numicon resources across EYFS (including into schools), children enter school familiar with the resource and with a developing mental imagery that can be built upon, supported and extended as needed.
- Really supports the "[unique child](#)", including those with SEN, and also enables children with EAL to show you what they know when maybe they cannot tell you. A great resource for extending those high fliers too! It's a versatile resource that supports children at all ages and stages of development. By observing children's use of the Numicon shapes you can focus on where their learning needs to go next and plan accordingly... thus starting with the child.
- By observing children using the Numicon resources you can gain a wealth of information not only about their development in Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy (PRSN), which practitioners do often find challenging to observe, but also [across the 6 areas](#), some examples include:  
Communication, Language and Literacy: explaining thinking, developing vocabulary.  
Knowledge and Understanding of the World: construction  
Creative Development: making patterns and talking about colours  
Personal, social and Emotional Development: working together  
Physical Development: developing fine motor skills
- Whilst playing with the Numicon resources children often use mathematical language that practitioners would never have thought they knew: I need 1 more, I haven't got enough, they are the same/different etc.
- Fantastic as a resource in its own right for pattern making, construction, matching games, but even more powerful to use across areas of provision: play dough, sand, water, outdoors, with instruments, for threading etc. The [Numicon Teaching Guide](#) gives ideas for lots of innovative playful maths activities.
- Offers opportunity for adult led activity but also endless child led activities: they have some of the best ideas, such as making web slingers for Spiderman!
- The resources are highly durable: can be used with paints or even for cookie cutters; easy to keep clean. Also great for taking outside into the garden. Someone even suggested dishwashing it on the top shelf on a cold wash... although I am not too sure about that one though!!