

Activities to help teach rote counting up to 10

Using the A4 floor mats or the desk top cards build slowly up from 5. This will not be in isolation as you will be also working on targets from 'number recognition' and 'counting'. There is no rush so aim for a new number every two weeks minimum. Some children need a long time. You will know if you are going too fast and don't be afraid of taking the task back to lower numbers. Learning needs to be secure.

Build the path together up to 6. Take turns to walk the path saying and signing the numbers.

Seven is the only two syllable number in the count sequence one to ten and can cause difficulties. Up until six each syllable uttered relates to one number - one, two, three, four, five, six could be replaced with 'un, oo, ee, ou, ive, ix' then we suddenly get two syllables 'sev-ven' yet only one mat!

When introducing seven be aware of this, some children may just want to omit it! I usually use the fact that the numeral is made up of two lines to emphasise the two syllables running my finger along the horizontal top part on the numeral as I say 'sev' then down the 'stalk' as I say 'ven'.

When you finally get to 10 you can have fun passing round a Hi10 when you have walked the path.