

Number Formation Policy

Purpose:

This policy is to ensure children develop skills and techniques to form their numbers in a legible manner. This will then progress as a consistent approach of number presentation throughout the whole school and avoid ambiguity between which number is which.

Practice

Number formation will be practised in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. Additional support on number formation in Key Stage Two can be supplemented through handwriting practice, focus group interventions or as part of supporting individual pupils.

Activities:

- Finger tracing - Before the child attempts to write a number on paper, encourage them to trace the number in the air or on a surface using their finger. This kinaesthetic activity helps to reinforce the muscle memory involved in number formation.
- Sensory materials – Children can use sensory materials such as sand, rice or shaving cream to write numbers in these textured mediums. These techniques add a tactile and multisensory approach to learning their number formation.
- Pencil tracing – Children to use a tracing template as a guide to helping them to write numbers more independently.
- Rhymes to help form numbers – Adults will read aloud rhymes to do with the number formation whilst modelling the numbers. Rhymes are designed to be memorable to help cement the number formation in the child's memory.



Around to my left to find my hero, back to the top, I've made a zero.



A downward stroke, my that's fun. Now I've made the number one.



Half a heart says "I love you." Add a line. Now I've made the number two.



Around the tree, around the tree, now I've made the number three.



Down and across and down once more, now I've made the number four.



Draw the hat, the back and the belly. It's a five. Watch out, it might come alive!



Bend down low to pick up sticks. Now I've made the number six.



Across the sky and down from heaven. Now I've made the number seven.



Make an "S" and close the gate. Now you've made the number eight.



Make an oval and a line. Now I've made the number nine.



A downward stroke, that's my one. Add a zero, that's my number ten done!

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- Regular practise – Incorporating regular number writing activities into daily routines is key to developing confidence in number formation. This could be done through writing the date or labelling a number of items.
- Handwriting sessions – These give children opportunities to practise during handwriting sessions where adults model the number, use the rhyme together, get the children to trace in the air and then finally commit to writing the number on paper.

Next Steps Development

For those children who are unable to consistently produce legible or correctly formed numbers, the following activities could help to improve their number formation:

- Create a pop-up number formation guide – A modelled version of number formation could be stuck in the back of the children's Maths book which can then be folded out above for when the child is completing their current task so they are able to see correctly formed numbers.
- Correcting incorrect numbers – Teachers to correct the incorrectly formed numbers and children to practise writing the correct number formation up to 5 times. Dotted formations may be needed to help support this.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Variations

It is important that children recognise different forms of the numbers in print since they will encounter them in everyday life. This is particularly important when helping to support children with English as an additional language as numerical systems can vary between countries.