



# Numicon guide for parents

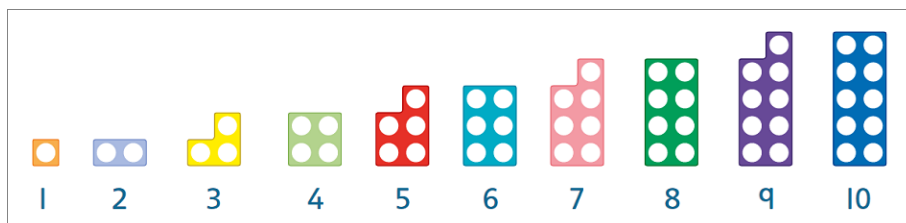


Numicon is effective, fun and used in schools everywhere. Numicon at Home is available to help you support your child with the maths they learn in school, succeed and enjoy it.

## What is Numicon?

Numicon is an approach to teaching maths that helps your child to see connections between numbers. From Oxford University Press, it supports your child as they learn early maths skills in nursery and primary school. It is a **multi-sensory** way of learning, which means your child learns by seeing and feeling. It focuses on imagery, action and conversation. Numicon uses a series of structured patterns – numicon shapes – to represent numbers as part of a progressive teaching. It is designed to give children the understanding of number ideas and number relationships that are essential for success in maths.

Physical resources like the colourful **Numicon Shapes** are an important part of Numicon. The holes in the Numicon Shapes represent the numbers 1 to 10. When they are arranged in order, as in the picture below, children can easily see connections between numbers, such as ‘one more’ or ‘one less’.



Later on, your child will be able to see more **complex mathematical ideas**, like how two fours make eight, three twos make six, and so on. This lays the foundation for their understanding of number all the way through school.

Numicon is often taught in primary schools as a **whole-school programme**, meaning it is their main way of teaching maths. Teachers use worksheets, physical shapes, online activities, and more to teach using Numicon. As well as mainstream maths teaching, Numicon is also sometimes used as an **intervention programme** to help children struggling with maths. At St John Vianney we use Numicon regularly to support the conceptual understanding of our pupils.

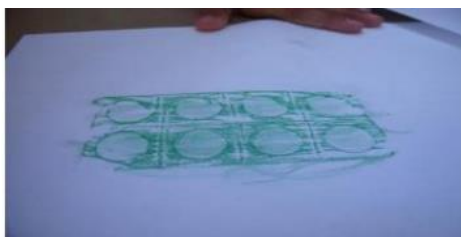
Children’s early experiences of maths at home have a huge impact on their later achievement. In this booklet you will find lots of different activities using Numicon that can be completed at home with your child. Each activity will encourage conversation and maths talk, as well as helping your child to become familiar with this resource. Each activity has a photo to help explain how to carry out the task.

Numicon Activities at Home



Finger painting

Using the Numicon pieces to print with



Rubbings:

Hide a piece of Numicon under the paper – can your child make a rubbing to identify which is hidden?

Make a rubbing using tin foil, which is hidden?





### **Numicon Stairs**

Ask your child to cover their eyes. Remove one or two pieces of Numicon. Ask your child if they can spot which piece is missing. Ask them to explain how they know?

### **Playdough**

Can you match your shape and impressions? Can you make a number line to help with adding and subtracting?



Can you make a number sentence with shapes and impressions?



### **Marbles**

Can you count out the marbles using the shapes? Count them and impress them into the playdough to confirm your counting.

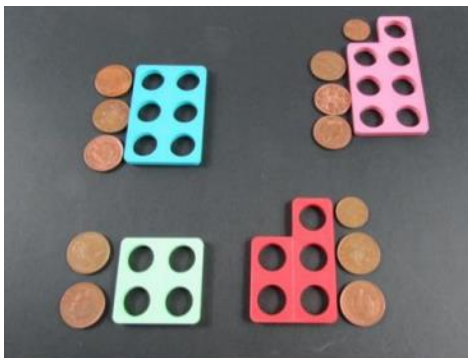
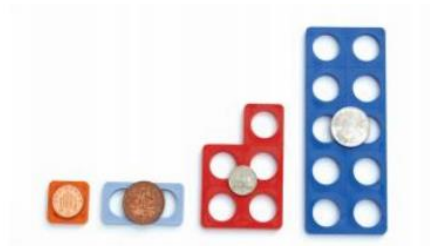


### Fishing in the Bath

Numicon pieces are great to use in water. Set them off finding pieces in the bath. Even more fun, if the bath has bubbles can you feel around and find a Numicon piece with 3 holes? Find two Numicon pieces, which has more/less holes?

### Matching coins

Can you match the coins to the shapes?  
Can you make the same amount with money and shapes?



### Money

Can you make the same amount with money and shapes?

Have Fun!

The list of ideas is not exhaustive. Numicon is very versatile. Have fun using Numicon with your child at home. We look forward to hearing and seeing all of your lovely ideas and photos. If you come up with new ideas we could include them in our booklet for other children to enjoy.

Please see the attached link for ideas for further activities you can do with your child at home to help with their Maths learning.

[Numicon guide for parents - Oxford Owl for Home](#)