Number Path

Grade Level   PK – 1

Description

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
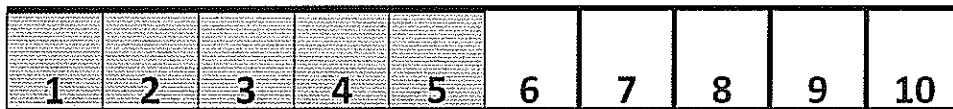
The number path can be thought of as a visual (pictorial) representation of the number tower (see description below) and is foundational to understanding and using the number line. It also serves as a visual representation of 1:1 correspondence and the concept of whole numbers (one number, one space, and each being equal in size). The color change at 5 helps to reinforce the 5 and 10 benchmarks. The number path also serves as an early precursor to measurement concepts and a support for cardinal counting. (If a student places 7 objects in each of the 7 spaces on the path, they must realize that there are 7 objects, not 10. Simply because the path goes up to 10 does not mean there are 10 objects.)

Instructional Strategies

- Sort, classify, and count up to 5 with meaning and then work on extending "How Many" questions up to 10.
- Match amounts to numerals.
- Write numerals 1 to 5.
- Extend the meaning of 6, 7, and 8 with numerals (6 is 5 and 1, 7 is 5 and 2, 8 is 5 and 3.)
- Become fluent with numbers to 10 and practice "before" and "after," as well as relationships of "1 more/less" and "2 more/less"
- Order numbers from 1 to 10.
- Play number order games (e.g., Partner A closes eyes while Partner B covers a number with a penny— then Partner A has to guess the hidden number).
- Fold the number path so that only small sections are visible. Students show 4, 5, 6, 7; teacher says "4, 5, hmm, 7 what number is missing?"
- Play "I Wish I Had" games (e.g., "I wish I had 7, but I only have 5." Student answers by placing a finger on 5 and then counting on to say "2" – the amount needed to make the target number.)
- Match ordered sets with numerals on the number path.