



Activity Idea

Activity

Painted Number Rocks

Possibilities for maths learning	☑ Counting	Composition	□ Cardinality
	□ Subitise	Comparison	□ Measure
	☑ Shape	☑ Pattern	□ Spatial awareness

Resources	> Flat rocks (enough so that children have a set of five rocks, possibly 10 rocks).	
	Paint and paintbrushes	
	Number line	

Activity Outline	Explain to the children that they are going to paint numerals on rocks to make their own numbers to play with. Children can work on their own or in groups and should have 1-5 or 1-10 rocks. To enhance the activity children could collect their own rocks, perhaps take the children on a walk or into your outdoor space. Talk about what rocks would be good for painting numbers on and why exploring shape properties.
	Once you have all of the rocks you need explain that you will start with rock number one. Ask children to identify the numeral '1' in the number line. Talk to children about the numeral and how it is formed. Give them time to paint the numeral 1 on the rock before moving onto the next number.
	Once the rocks are painted and dry you can encourage children to use these in games and play for a purpose.

Extension Opportunities	 Make a memory game out of the rocks. Turn all of the rocks over with the numbers face down. The object of the game is to remember where each number is and then put the rocks in numerical order. For example, if the child is looking for number four and turns over number six, the child needs to turn over that rock and continue to turn over rocks until he/she finds the number four. It can also be turned into a game between two players.
	 The children can put the rocks in descending order, starting with the number 10 and working down to number one.