

Making Composing Number Accessible

[LT]² During Routines and Transition



Building learning into existing routines and transitions is an effective way to engage children through repetition and predictability (Jenning, Hanline, & Woods, 2012). By incorporating **number composition** into everyday routines and transitions, the learner is offered multiple opportunities to practice these skills throughout authentic and diverse environments.

Embedding Composing Number into Routines

Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Incorporate number composition into centers such as sensory play, block play, and dramatic play. Observe and appropriately scaffold their learning as needed. If necessary, you may choose to prime students on the expectations prior to their engagement with the materials<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>For sensory play, set up a table with a range of Play-Doh materials. Encourage children to make Play-Doh pizzas, putting different pieces on top of their “pizza dough.” Talk about how the different parts on top come together to make a whole pizza.</i>▪ <i>During block play, provide a range of different colored blocks. Children can build multicolored towers and visualize how the different colors make a whole structure.</i>▪ <i>Dramatic play with toy animals can be a fun way to learn about number composition. Some ideas include making a zoo, aquarium, or simply representing the different animals that exist in the wild.</i>
Snack and Shared Mealtimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Encourage children to engage with number composition during mealtimes. Start with teacher-led questions and observations, then encourage peer-led discussion.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>“Your plate has 2 sandwich pieces and 4 apple slices, they come together to make your lunch! What do the rest of our friend’s plates have on them?”</i>▪ Mealtimes are a great time for social conversations. See if children can make connections to how different parts of a whole exist in their own lives. Some ideas include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Daily schedule</i>▪ <i>Family members</i>▪ <i>What they are wearing</i>

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Outdoor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bring number composition outside of the classroom, highlighting how math exists in the natural world. This can be through structured activities or simply through free play. Always be sure to follow the child’s lead and narrate their play to teach key vocabulary.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Vocabulary may include: part, whole, together, all, etc.</i>▪ Try going on a nature scavenger hunt. Look for leaves, flowers, sticks, etc., then count their different parts, discussing how these parts come together to make a whole.
Story Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Class read-alouds are a great time to explore the composition of numbers. Any book can be used, just look for different parts of an object in the book and talk about how those parts come together to make a whole. Pause frequently to discuss with the students and hold space at the end to summarize as a group.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>For example, using “Little Blue Truck” by Alice Schertle, point out how the truck has 4 wheels that all come together to make the truck drive.</i>

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Embedding Composing Number into Transitions

- Incorporate number songs into transitions, such as *“One Elephant Went Out to Play,”* *“Five Little Ducks,”* etc.
- **Pair students up in teams of 3 or 4 when transitioning out of the classroom, changing the teams daily. This can help students understand that they are a part of a whole.**
- **When transitioning between activities in the classroom, ask students to quickly hold up “X” fingers (between 2-9). Then, ask the students if they can represent that number in a different way with different fingers.**
- **When giving students a list of directions, highlight the different parts and how they come together to make a whole. Represent this in different sensory modalities, such as visual, auditory, or kinesthetic.**