

**Matching Numicon shape to Numicon shape, later numeral card to numeral card and eventually Numicon to number card/number card to Numicon.**

Start by setting out the number path; either on the floor or on the desk top. You may be working on rote counting up to 7 but focusing on number recognition of 1 to 4.

Place Numicon shapes 1 to 4 in a fancy bag. Have enough so that everybody can have one including yourself.

Swing the number bag and sing the song. (see video)

“Number bag, number bag, what’s in the number bag?”

At the end of the song one child chooses a shape out of the bag and the rest of the same shape are given out. Everyone then matches the shape to the correct image.



We then repeat the song and select the next shape.

Over the years I have learned that it does not matter how long it takes to select a shape or object (it can sometimes be frustrating for us to watch) they are practicing fine motor skills and hand eye coordination and eventually they have an item in their hand they are thrilled to have acquired independently, you can praise them and then guide them to match it and praise them again.

As you progress start to include number cards in your bag. So sometime the child is matching Numicon to Numicon and sometimes numeral to numeral.

### **Link to sorting**

Once the Numicon shapes are all on the mats we then bring out the labelled post boxes and, to begin with, post without sorting.

Some children will still need larger boxes others smaller boxes with smaller holes- sometime a smaller hole can help the child really focus their hand eye coordination – but be careful it does not cause frustration.

As you progress begin to sort.