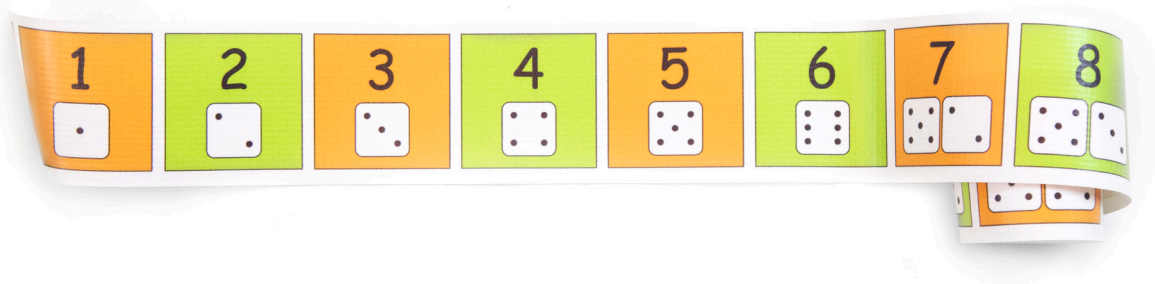


# The Number Path



The number path is a great tool to have around at home and in the classroom. Here are some ideas of how you can use the number path:

**Point to each number as you recite it.** This reinforces that the number has a name and that it is represented by a written numeral or symbol.

**Count the dots on each square by pointing to each dot.** After the child finishes counting, point to the numeral and say, “Yes, there are 3 in all.” This reinforces the notion of cardinality (how many in all) and matches the numeral to the quantity.

**Have a race.** Get two small toys, and then using dice or a spinner, take turns rolling or spinning to advance the toys down the number path. Once you get to the end, race back to the beginning!

**Hang it up.** Having a number path visible in the room allows children to quickly check which numbers come before and after other numbers, and to double-check number names by counting the dots.

**Reinforce number order** by talking about what numbers come before, after, and in between other numbers. You can make it a game by saying, “I’m thinking of a number that is between three and five,” or “This number comes after 6 but before 10.” For more of a challenge:

- Switch roles and have children think of numbers
- Play without looking at the number path until the end of each round
- Use cards or sticky notes to extend the number path to 20

**Skip count** down the number path by 2s. Later, you can skip count by 3s or use cards or sticky notes to extend the number path to 20.

**Invent your own game.** Use dice, tokens, toys, and your imagination to see what number path games you and your child can come up with.