SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

PlanToys Wooden Braille Number Tiles 1-10

(Early Literacy Braille Manipulatives – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
This 10-piece wooden tile set makes learning numbers in braille as easy as 1-2-3! The vibrantly colored set features numbers 1-10 and the corresponding braille cells. The other side features impressed leaf illustrations to help children count. Suitable for children 2 years and up. Ideal for counting, writing, and learning braille. Made of sustainable materials and chemical-free with water-based dyes. Each tile measures 2 5/8 x 3 1/4 inches - ideal for small hands.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Have low vision or are blind
- Learn best through tactile exploration or need additional sensory cues to learn early literacy skills, such as letter recognition.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Recognize and name numbers in braille and/or print.
- Learn and practice counting up to 10.
- Develop understanding of one-to-one correspondence.
- Identify colors.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction. • Can be used at school, home, or the community.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Velcro

Positioning

- PlanToys Wooden Braille Number Tiles can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.
- Consider the surface where the child is reading the braille on the tiles. Ensure it allows the child to comfortably use their hands to explore and feel the letters clearly.

Alternate Positioning

- Alternate positioning of side-lying, belly position (prone), lying on the back (supine), kneeling, etc. may also be possible.

Basic Play/Use

- Learn the numbers 1-10 in braille and print.
- Encourage tactile and visual exploration
- Count using one-to-one correspondence up to 10.

Extended Play/Use

- Have the child draw one of the tiles from a bag or container. Say the number and count the leaves on the back of the tile. Using manipulatives like pompoms, cubes or counting bears, have the child count the same number of objects to match the number on the tile they chose.
- Spread the tiles out in the child's workspace. Have the child put the tiles in order from least to greatest.
- Make a braille cell using half of an egg carton or a muffin tin with 6 spots. Choose a tile and have the student recreate the braille number using pompoms or ping pong balls by placing them in the correct spots in the egg carton/muffin tin.
- Compare numbers! Have the child pick two tiles and say the number on each tile. Ask them which number is bigger and which one is smaller. If they're not sure, count out loud together to help them figure it out. Use words like "more," "less," "higher," and "lower" to build their number vocabulary. To make it more fun, turn it into a game—see

Stabilize It

- Place Dycem under the tiles to create a non-slip surface, helping keep them in place for children who might accidentally push them away while exploring with their hands.
- Attach Velcro to the back of each tile and use a Velcro-friendly board to keep them in place, providing stability for children who need the tiles to stay stationary while exploring. This would also allow for the tiles to be presented on a raised surface such as an All-in-One Board from APH.

Simplify It

- Reduce the number of tiles you give to a child to explore at one time.
- If asking the child to find a specific number, limit the choices.
- Use hand under hand to assist a child who is blind or has low vision to encourage and demonstrate tactile exploration.

Contain it

- Consider using a tray with a raised edge (ex: baking sheet) to give a defined play/workspace. This is especially helpful for students who are blind as they can search more easily to find tiles within a given space.
- Store the tiles in a basket or tub with a lid.

Add Sensory Cues

- Add a tactile cue to the tile so a student who is blind or low vision knows the correct orientation of the blocks when learning and reading letters. Ex: dot of puffy paint on the top of the block

Communication Support

- For students with some vision, provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. touch, on, off, up, down, more, red, blue, etc.) for the child to engage with the Braille Alphabet Tiles.

Alternative Uses

- Use to teach the names of colors.

how many pairs they can compare correctly or how fast they can do five in a row!
- Have the child roll 1-2 dice, count the dots (you could make the dice tactile also), and find the tile that matches the number on the dice.
- Incorporate other fine motor skills by having the child put beads on a pipe cleaner to show the same number of the tile they choose.

Play/Use with Others

- Including both braille and print enables and encourages students with low vision or blindness to play with peers.
- Play a number matching game with a friend using the PlanToys Wooden Braille Number Tiles and dice or counting manipulatives (e.g. bears, blocks, cubes). Children can play together to match numbers or see who can match the number to the manipulatives the fastest.
- Play number bingo with a small group. Create simple bingo cards with the numbers 1-10. Use the tiles as the calling tiles for bingo.
- Stack the tiles on top of each other and build a tower.
- Use to create a matching game with manipulatives. Ex: using counting bears, give the child a group of bears. Count the bears and find the tile that has the same number.

DIY Alternatives

- Using a set of number flashcards from 1-10, add braille to each card (using pearl stickers, puffy paint or something else to create the raised dots) and trace the print numbers with hot glue or puffy paint to make them tactile. You could also make this by printing the numbers on cardstock and making your own flashcards.

Additional Considerations:

- Recommended for ages 2+

Additional Resources:

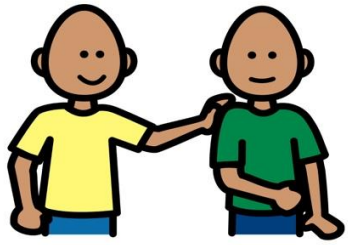
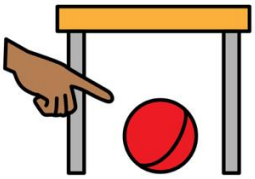
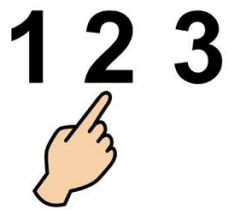
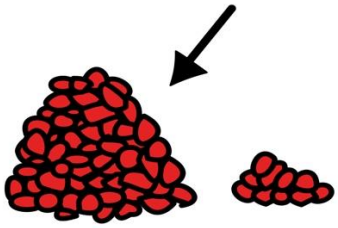
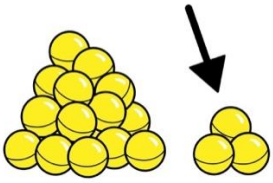
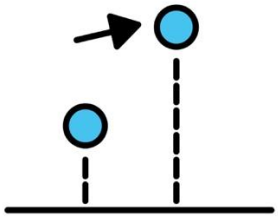
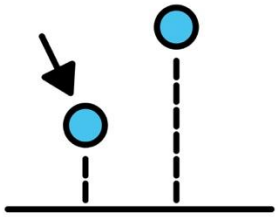
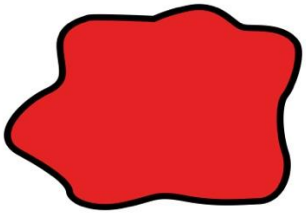
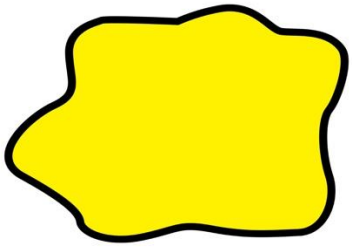
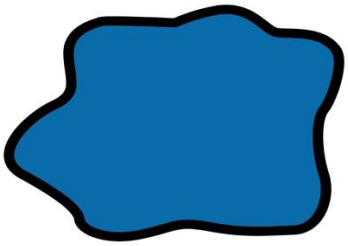
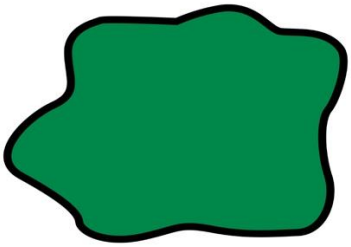
- Read more about hand under hand guidance and technique.
- Use the PlanToys Wooden Braille Number Tiles together with any of these counting to ten activities.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- MA: Number Sense: Develops understanding of the stable order of the counting sequence and learns to recite numbers in order. (1.a.).
- MA: Number Sense: Develops understanding of one-to-one correspondence and cardinality. (1.b.).
- MA: Number Sense: Develops ability to recognize and name written numerals. (1.d.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Engages in new and unfamiliar experiences and activities. (1.a.).
- CO: Memory: Develops the ability to recall information about objects, people, and past experiences. (1.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

- May include words One, Two, Three, etc. up to Ten

Touch 	Find 	Count 
Leaf/leaves 	More 	Less 
Higher 	Lower 	Red 
Yellow 	Blue 	Green 

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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