

Number Sense & Playdough Mats (Numbers 1–10): Quick Start Guide

Dr Dewi Griffith | EarlyChildhoodEduNet

Preparing Your Mats

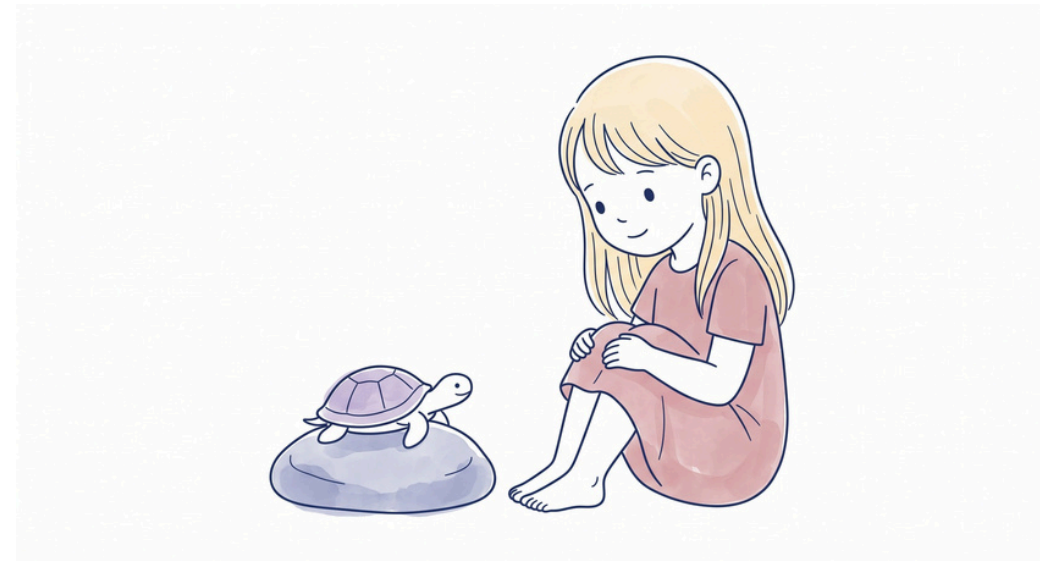
- Print on heavy matte card (200 to 250 gsm) to eliminate glare from overhead lighting.
- Laminate or slip into reusable matte write-and-wipe dry-erase pockets.
- Snip off all four sharp plastic corners so they are curved and smooth.

Three Steps for Low-Pressure Hands-On Play

1. **The Dough Snake:** Roll a small piece of dough into a snake or sausage, then bend and press it into the large numeral hollow.
2. **The Ten-Frame Fill:** Roll small dough balls together and squash them flat into each square of the ten-frame, one by one.
3. **Subitising & Pointing:** Count the character illustrations together using a quiet flat finger tap.

Child Safety Note:

For children under three or anyone who mouths objects, use non-toxic, taste-safe playdough (flour, salt, water, cream of tartar, and vegetable oil). Avoid small loose counters, beads, raw chickpeas, or coins, which are dangerous choking hazards

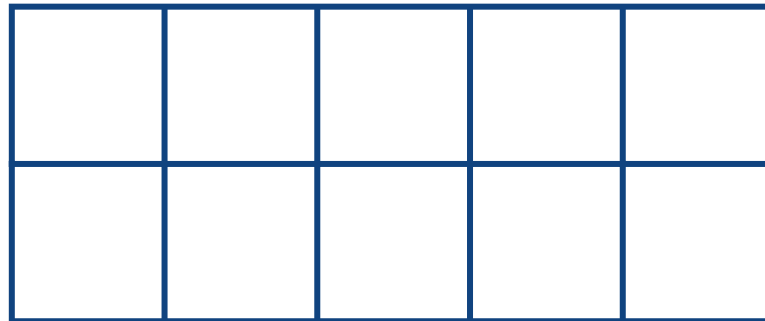


1



"One gentle turtle rests on a warm sunlit rock."

2



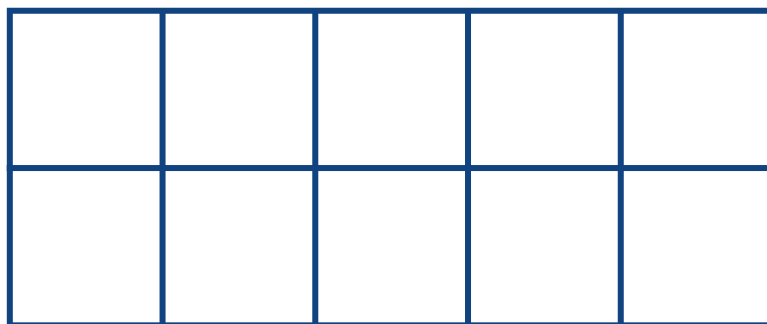
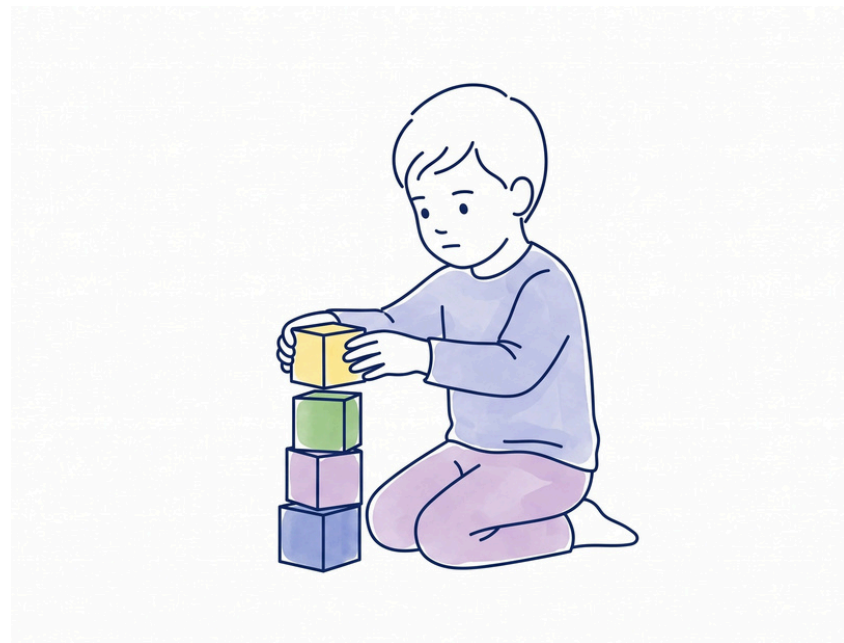
"Two cosy blue shoes wait quietly by the door."

3



"Three smooth river stones skip across the cool water."

4



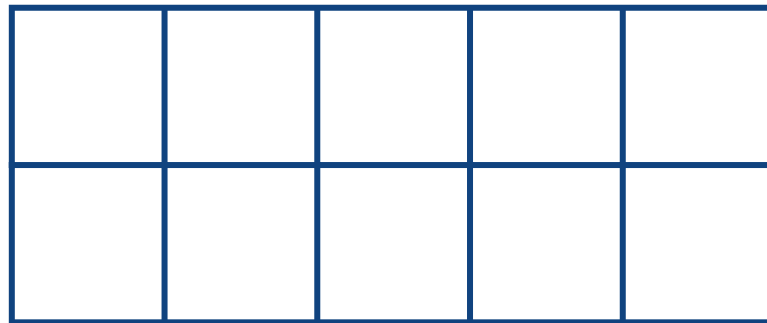
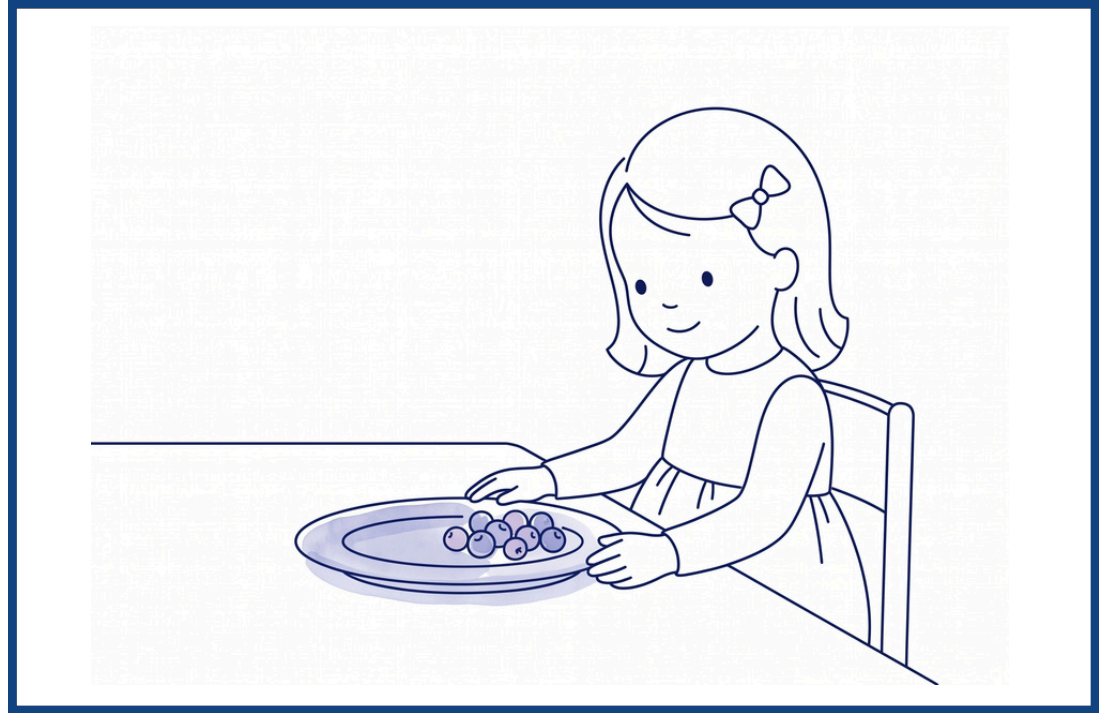
"Four wooden building blocks balance tall and steady."

5



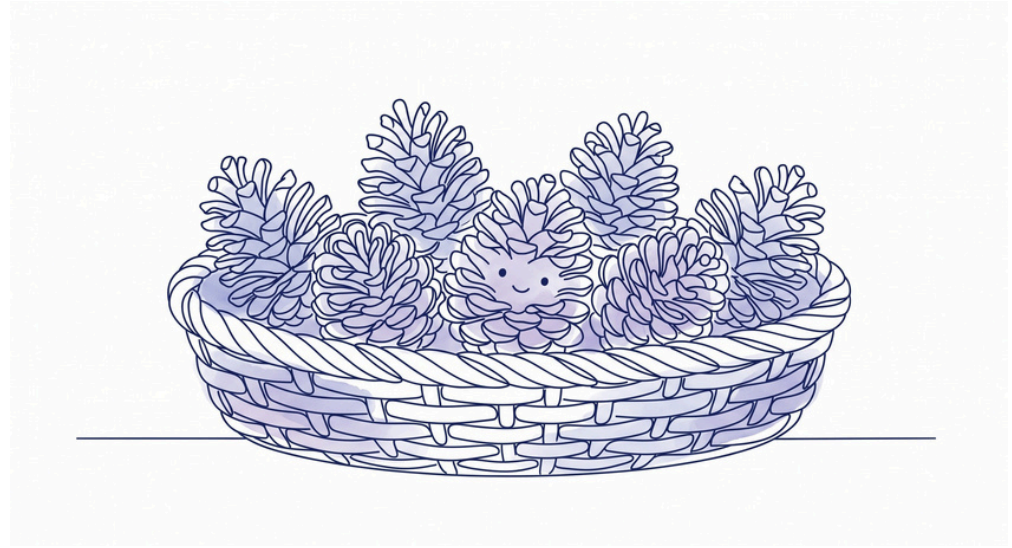
"Five golden autumn leaves swirl down to the grass."

6



"Six ripe blueberries roll onto a clean morning plate."

7



"Seven bumpy pinecones sit in a little woven basket."

8



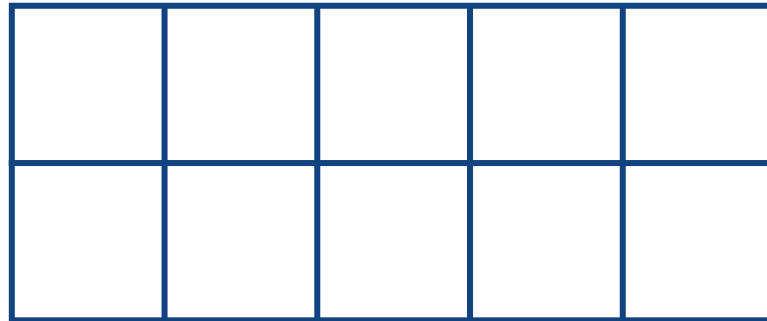
"Eight clear morning dewdrops glisten on green blades of grass."

9



"Nine gentle soap bubbles float higher into the air."

10



"Ten little acorns rest snugly in an open palm."