

Outdoor Learning, Numeracy

Learning experience	
Natural object number stories	
CfE Level - Early	
Experiences and Outcomes and associated benchmarks/skills	
E&Os MNU0-02a I have explored numbers, understanding that they represent quantities and can use them to count, create sequences and describe order. MNU0-03a I use practical materials and can 'count on and back' to help me to understand addition and subtraction, recording my ideas and solutions in different ways.	BM/Skills When counting objects, understands that the number name of the last object counted is the name given to the total number of objects in the group. Partitions quantities to 10 into two or more parts and recognises that this does not affect the total. Adds and subtracts mentally to 10. Uses appropriately the mathematical symbols +, - and =
Overview of learning experience	
Pupils gather or are given a selection of materials cones, sticks stones, pe cones, balls anything which can be used outside. Pupils are asked to write some number stories using these objects.	
Outline of learning	
LI/SC I can group objects. I can count the number of objects in a group. I can use addition or subtraction to get to another number. I can write my numbers 1-10 I can form an addition or subtraction number story.	Resources Materials for grouping, cones, sticks, stones, leaves, balls, pe cones, hockey sticks. Whiteboards, whiteboard pens. Camera for teacher to record work.
Description of learning experience and assessment opportunities Pupils are given or gather objects. Teacher gives an example of what to do, look at objects, group them in categories or think about the environment they are in, what could happen to these objects? Wind, animals, get stuck, children play with them, they roll away. Then think of a story for the objects ie I have 6 objects (4 cones and 2 sticks) $2 \text{ sticks} + 4 \text{ cones} = 6$. A boy comes along and wants to have a sword fight with his friend so takes a stick $6 - 1 = 5$. Then a squirrel comes along and adds more cones to the pile as they want to make a nest $5 + 3 = 8$. Pupils could individually or in groups make up their number stories and then write them on their whiteboards.	

Consideration of risk

If pupils are gathering materials then hazards should be highlighted.
Thorns should be avoided.
Pupils should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

Taking it further – what else could you do?

Pupils could tell their number stories to their class.
Numbers 10-20 could be included.
Pupils could be given an equation and asked to represent it in a number story.
Pupils could be given an equation with a number missing and asked to represent it in objects and then solve it.