

Here are two developmentally appropriate activities designed especially for early years to reinforce the concept of place value in a simple, concrete way.

#### Activity 1: "Straw Bundles – Making Tens"

##### Objective

Children understand that 10 ones make 1 ten.

##### Materials

Drinking straws or ice-cream sticks

Rubber bands

Two baskets labeled Ones and Tens

Number cards (11–30)

##### Procedure:

Begin with free counting of loose straws (count aloud together).

When children reach 10, stop and ask:

"What should we do with 10 ones?"

Tie 10 straws together with a rubber band and place in the Tens basket.

Continue counting (11, 12, 13...) placing extra loose straws in Ones.

Show a number card (e.g., 14).

Children make 1 bundle (ten)

Place 4 loose straws (ones)

Children say together:

"14 is 1 ten and 4 ones."

#### Activity 2: "Place Value House"

##### Objective

Children recognize that the position of a digit gives it value.

##### Materials

A large chart drawn like a house with two rooms:

Tens Room

Ones Room

Digit cards (0–9)

Small counters or blocks

Procedure

Explain:

“Digits live in different rooms. The room they stay in changes their value.”

Show a number like 23.

Ask children:

Which digit goes to the Tens room? (2)

Which goes to the Ones room? (3)

Place 2 bundles (or draw 2 rods) in the Tens room.

Place 3 single blocks in the Ones room.

Read together:

“23 is 2 tens and 3 ones.”

Extension

Swap digits (32).

Ask: “Is it the same number? Why not?”

This builds early understanding that place changes value.