

Building a number line activities



1 Build from zero

Students choose a spacing strip and build a number line from zero to ten on the floor, placing each number card as they count forward and keeping every space equal.

"Choose your strip. Start at zero and count forward — keep every space the same."

"Did you land on ten? If not, what would you change?"

2 Build a given line

Give a start and an end — for example two to eight. Students choose a spacing strip and count forward from the start until they land on the end.

"Build from two to eight. Choose your spacing, then count forward."

"Did you land exactly on eight? Would a bigger or smaller strip fit better?"

3 Non-example: both ends first

Put the 0 card and the 10 card down far apart, then try to place the numbers in between. Show how hard it is to keep the spaces equal, then rebuild by choosing a spacing strip and counting forward from zero.

"I put zero and ten down first. Now where does one go? Is that easy to get right?"

"The better way: choose a spacing strip and count forward from zero."

Building a number line — number cards 0–20

Print on A4 landscape. Cut out. Use these to build your number line, placing one number at the end of each spacing strip as you count forward.



0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

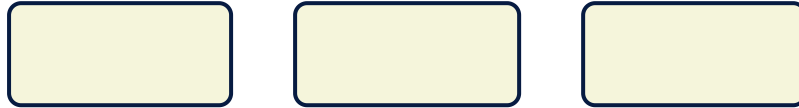
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Building a number line — spacing strips

Cut out. Pick one size and keep it the same for every space. If you run out of room, or finish with lots left over, choose a different strip and build again.



small spacing



medium spacing



large spacing



Building a number line — build task cards

Cut out. Take a card, choose a spacing strip, and count forward from the start until you land on the end.



Build from 0 to 10

Choose your spacing, count forward.

Build from 2 to 8

Land exactly on 8.

Build from 0 to 5

A short line — pick your strip.

Build from 3 to 9

Start at 3, not 0.

Build from 5 to 15

A longer line to 15.

Build from 4 to 12

Keep every space equal.