

Rounding to the nearest ten activities

If possible, run these activities on a real number line made on the floor with masking tape — children can walk to a number and physically stand at the halfway point, which works better than the small printed mat for this stage.

1 Find the closer ten

Children place a pointer card at a number between two tens and count the steps each way to decide which ten it is closer to.

"Count the steps back to sixty, then on to seventy. Which is fewer?"

"What does sixty-six round to?"

2 Round it yourself

Given a two-digit number, children place the pointer on the mat, identify the two tens it sits between, and round to the closer one.

"Which two tens does your number sit between?"

"Which one is it closer to?"

3 The exact middle — round up

Children practise the halfway rule with numbers like 35, 65 and 15, placing the pointer exactly between two tens.

"Is your number exactly in the middle?"

"What does the rule say to do when a number is exactly in the middle?"

4 Non-example: rounding down at the halfway point

Someone rounds 65 down to 60, even though 65 sits exactly halfway between 60 and 70.

"Is sixty-five exactly in the middle of sixty and seventy?"

"What should sixty-five round to, and why?"

Number line mat



Number line mat — with ones marked



Pointer cards

