

Finding tens and ones on a number line 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 point to it, which works better than the small printed mat for this stage.

1 Find the ten, then count the ones

Children place a pointer card on the mat at a target number, finding the nearest ten below it and counting on by ones to check.

"Which ten comes just before fifty-four?"

"Count on from fifty by ones. Where does the pointer go?"

2 Read the pointer, name the number

The teacher or a partner places a pointer card on the mat, and children count on from the nearest ten to name the number.

"Which ten is the pointer closest to, just before it?"

"Count on by ones from there. What number is it pointing to?"

3 Mark it yourself

Given a number, children find the correct ten on the mat and place the pointer card after counting on by ones.

"Which ten comes just before your number?"

"Count on by ones and place the pointer where it lands."

4 Non-example: counting from the wrong ten

Someone counts on from 40 to try to find 38, and places the pointer after 40 instead of before it.

"Thirty-eight — is that before forty, or after it?"

"Which ten should counting have started from?"

Number line mat



Number line mat — with ones marked



Pointer cards

