

# Building a number line introduction



## 1 Building the line, one equal space at a time

Place the 0 card at the start of the floor space, with a spacing strip laid out ready beside it.

*"Here is 0. This is where every number line starts."*

Lay the spacing strip from the 0 card and place the 1 card at its far end, keeping the strip flat and straight.

*"I lay my strip down flat, and the next number goes right at the end of it."*

Repeat with the same spacing strip, placing 2, 3, 4 and 5 in turn, always laying the strip from the last card placed.

*"Same strip, every time. That keeps every space equal."*

Pause partway along the line and ask children what would happen if a different sized strip were used partway through.

*"What if I swapped to a bigger strip halfway along? Would that be fair?"*

Finish placing the remaining cards up to 10, keeping the same strip size throughout, then step back and look at the finished line as a whole.

*"Same strip, same spacing, all the way to ten. Now I have a number line, and every space is exactly the same."*

## Building a number line — number cards 0–10

Print on A4 landscape (enlarge to A3 for floor use). Cut out. Place 0 at the start, then add each number at the end of your spacing strip as you count forward.



**0**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**

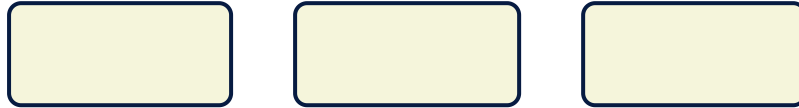
**10**

# Building a number line — spacing strips

Cut out. Choose one size and use the same strip for every space. Lay the strip from the last mark and put the next number at its far end — keep every space equal.



**small spacing**



**medium spacing**



**large spacing**

