# **Bridges in Mathematics** Kindergarten Unit 2 Numbers to Ten

In this unit your child will:

- Quickly recognize how many objects are in a collection (up to 5) without counting
- Compare sets using the words more and less
- Develop number sense with combinations that make 5, and then 10



- Count objects and match the quantity to the written numeral
- Build with two-dimensional shapes

Your child will learn and practice these skills by solving problems like those shown below. Keep this sheet for reference when you're helping with homework.

PROBLEM	COMMENTS
How many red dots? Show me on your fingers. How many blue dots? Show me with the fingers on your other hand. How many in all? How many dots do you see? How do you see it?	<b>Five- and ten-frames</b> help students develop number sense. The frames help them make mental pictures of numbers in various ways. On the first card, students see that 5 is made up of 2 red dots and 3 blue dots. Many children can recognize 2 and 3 without having to count each dot. They might also know that when the whole row is filled, we have 5. On the ten-frame card, they see 7 is made up of 5 red dots and 2 white dots. They may notice that 7 is 3 less than 10. Seeing the "parts" of numbers is foundational for adding and subtracting.
Use the number rack to show 3 in one push.	The <b>number rack</b> is a math tool made up of 10 beads broken into a group of 5 red beads and a group of 5 white beads. Like the ten- frame, it helps students see numbers in relation to 5 and 10. In later units, students will use the number rack for more formal practice with addition and subtraction.
Count how many dots are on each card. Decide which card has more and which card has less.	Young children visually recognize <i>more</i> before they can count collections. <i>Less</i> is a more difficult term. In this game and other activities like it, students determine "which is more" and "which is less" by counting the dots on each card and then comparing the two quantities. Using the ten-frame structure, they see which quantity fills more of the squares. If two quantities are the same, they are said to be <i>equal</i> .

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#### Kindergarten Unit 2: Numbers to Ten



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 2

### Q: Why is there an emphasis on seeing groups instead of counting by 1s?

A: The ability to quickly recognize groups less than 5 helps students develop an understanding of quantity. First we build the model with counters they can hold in their hands, then we use cards to illustrate the model they made, and finally we ask children to picture it in their minds. This progression from the concrete to the abstract helps develop efficient strategies for computation, such as counting on to add ("5 + 3 is 5...6, 7, 8").



Some kindergarteners will continue to count by 1s as they develop their counting skills early in the year.

## Q: Why are games used for homework?

A: Children enjoy playing games, which give them the repeated practice they need to master new skills. Games offer a positive experience with math. In most cases, the Home Connection games, or similar ones, have been played in class. Ask your child to explain how to play the game. This will not only make him feel important, but it will also give you an idea of his understanding of the concepts. If your child seems hesitant or confused, spend a little time reviewing the written directions provided before playing the game. Most important, have fun together as you help your child develop important math vocabulary and skills.

This chart shows how number writing is taught at school for numerals 6–10. You may want to refer to it when helping your child write numbers at home.



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