

# What is Numicon?

Numicon is a teaching resource designed to help children **visualise** numbers. From this visual picture they can see how we can add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers and the relationships between these.

The different coloured Numicon shapes represent different numbers.

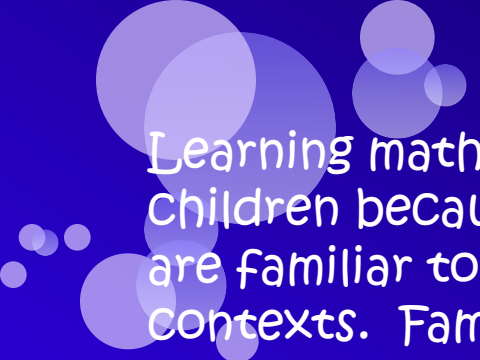
Numicon is **multi-sensory**. Children can touch as well as see the numbers.



## How is Numicon used?

In the Early Years the Shapes are used to represent numbers from 1-10 and in the stages used after this, the apparatus are used to show higher numbers giving a important concrete image of place value.






Learning mathematical language often presents difficulties for children because, in the course of mathematics lessons, words which are familiar to children outside the classroom, are used in unfamiliar contexts. Familiar words taken on different and unfamiliar shades of meaning. For example, 'take-away' in a non-mathematical context describes a meal collected from a fast food outlet, whereas in the classroom it describes a subtraction structure.

When our children are taught with Numicon, they hear and say associated mathematical language whilst the imagery simultaneously supports their mathematical understanding. Numicon imagery is used to bridge the gap the children may have from the real world to the abstract world of number.

The Numicon teaching approach is multi-sensory, aiming for children to learn mathematical language and simultaneously performing the action of the immediate teaching activity. Numicon helps our children to develop their own mental imagery and offers all the children a multi-sensory way into understanding numbers and arithmetic.

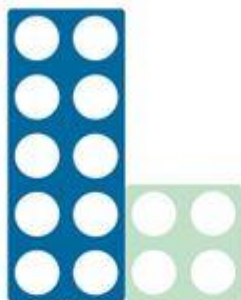


# Place Value

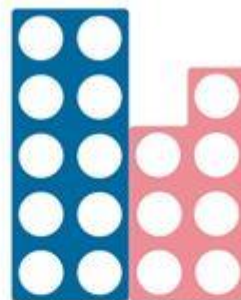
Numicon Free Resources  
Numeral, number name and Numicon Shape cards 1-31 – sheet 4 of 11



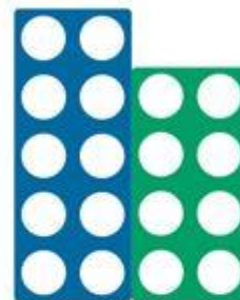
**13**  
thirteen



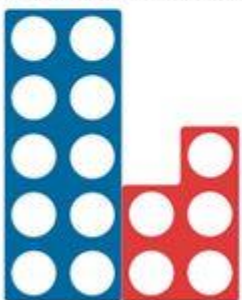
**14**  
fourteen



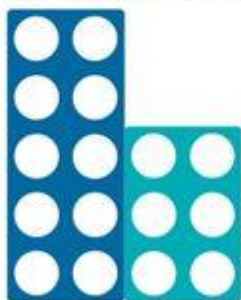
**17**  
seventeen



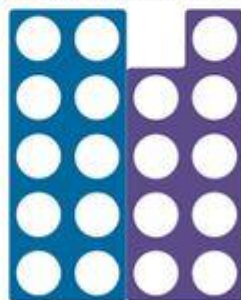
**18**  
eighteen



**15**  
fifteen



**16**  
sixteen

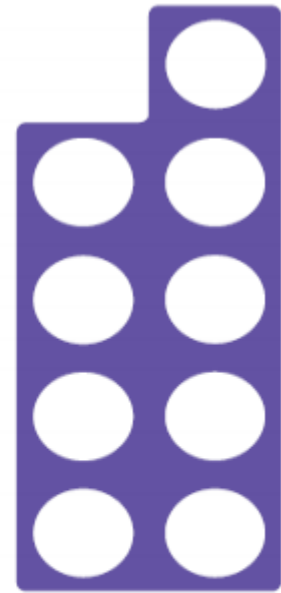
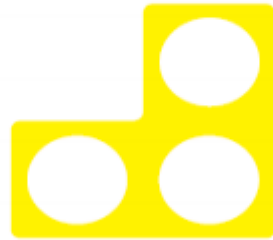
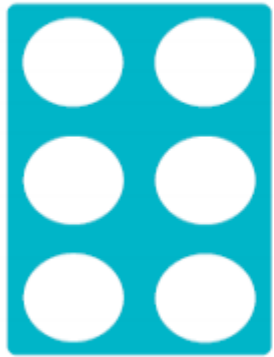


**19**  
nineteen



**20**  
twenty

# Addition



**6**

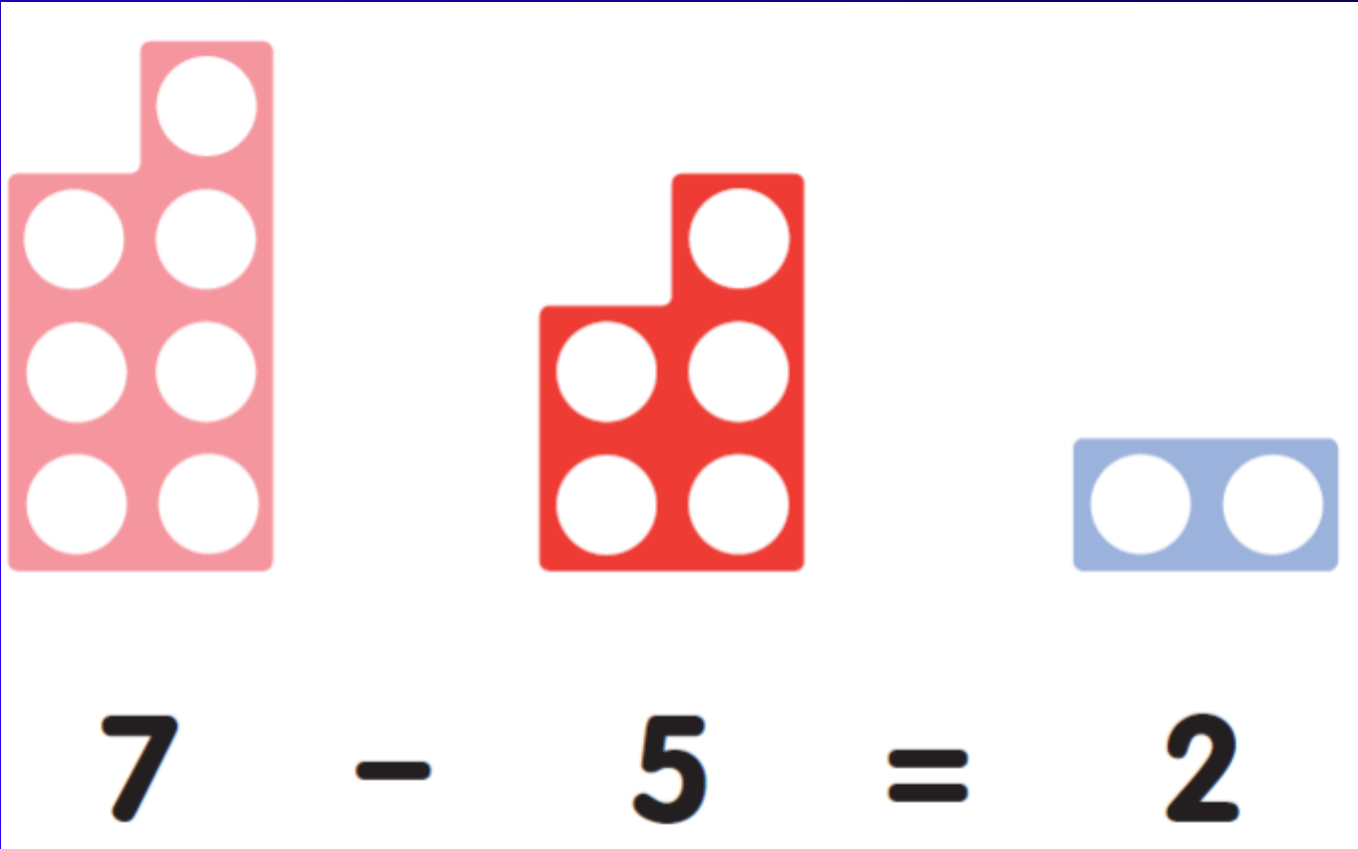
**+**

**3**

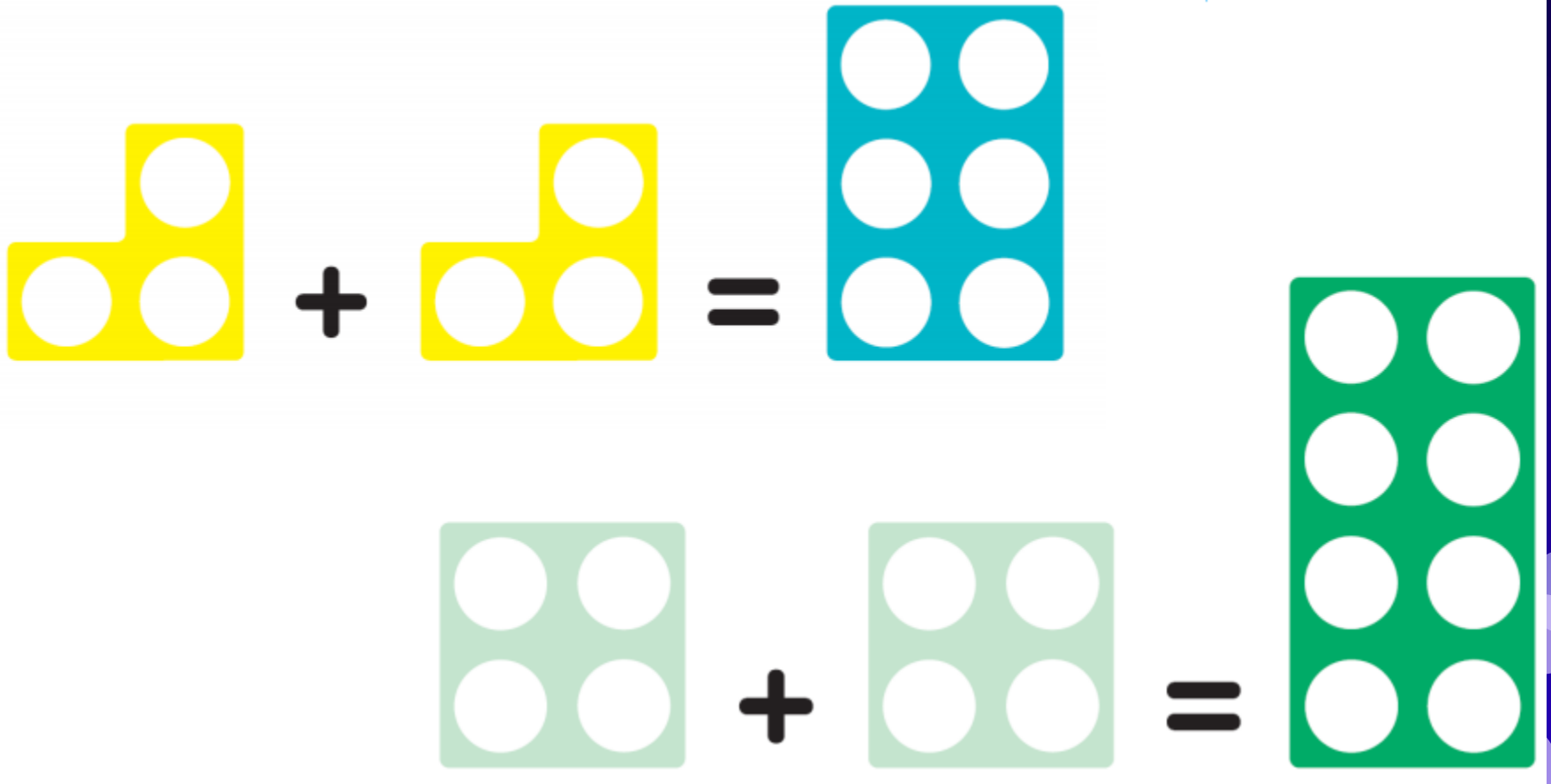
**=**

**9**

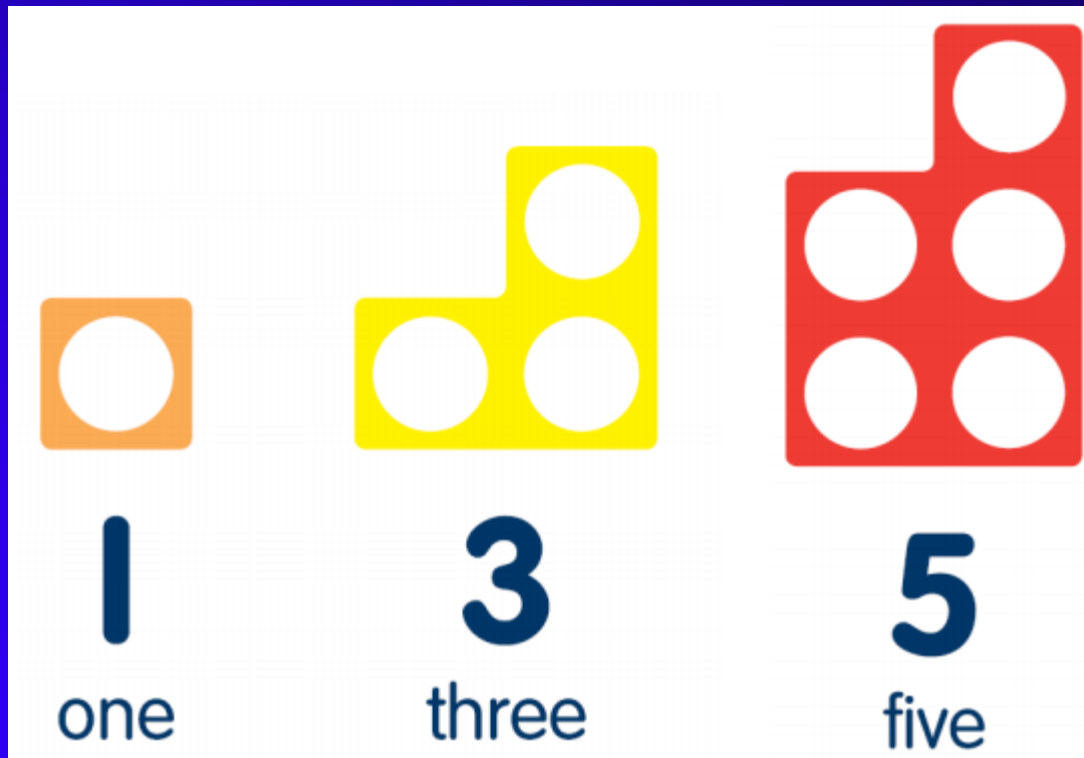
# Subtraction



# Doubles

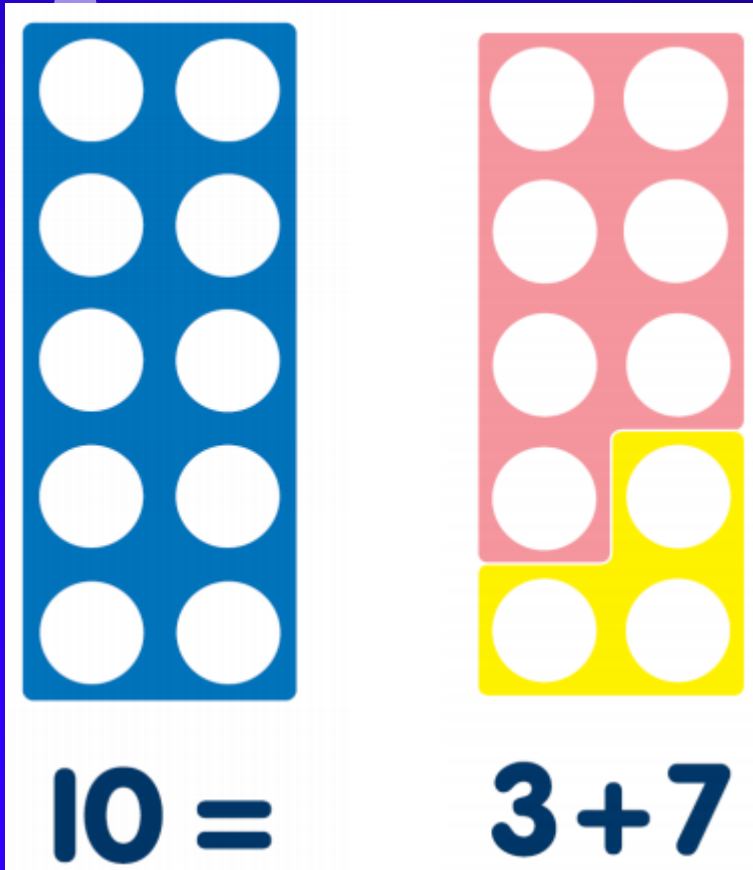


# Odd numbers/Patterns





# Number Bonds to 10



How many different combinations of shapes can you find to make 10?

# Other resources...

- ✓ Multilink/counting teddies
  - ✓ Number lines
  - ✓ Money
  - ✓ 100 squares
- ✓ Cuisenaire (number rods)
- ✓ Tens and units cubes
  - ✓ Paper and pencil jottings (pictures, empty number lines)