



MathLink® Cubes

Maths Fluency Set

Set de cubos MathLink® para adquirir soltura en matemáticas • Kit de maîtrise mathématique avec cubes MathLink® • MathLink® Steckwürfel-Set Ich beherrsche Mathe • MathLink® Cubes – Set om rekenvaardigheden te leren • Set di cubi MathLink® - Sviluppo delle capacità matematiche

Activity Guide

Guía de actividades • Guide d’activités • Spielvorschläge • Activiteitengids • Guida all’attività

With this Mathlink® Cubes Activity Set, children can learn and develop a range of essential maths skills, including:

- Number and place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Statistics
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions
- Measurement
- Properties of shape

Place Value (hundreds, tens & ones) (Card 1a)

Show children the grid at the top of the card and the values heading each column (hundreds, tens, ones). Discuss the fact that these relate to place value. Now have children select the correct number of Mathlink Cubes to build the values shown. Using the grid as the baseline, children can lay the towers of cubes flat on the card. This provides a very visual way of looking at each number.

Think of some more numbers to try. Can they match the correct number of cubes to each place value?

Missing Number Place Value (Card 1b)

Card 1b shows the Mathlink Cubes already in their place value positions. Can the children work out what the number is? Create additional combinations to test children, or even encourage them to test you!

Place Value – Ordering Numbers (Card 2a)

This activity helps children see that the value of a digit is determined by its position in a number. Give children ten Mathlink Cubes. Have them share them out across the grid (building cube lengths against the base line) to explore building:

- the largest possible number
- the smallest possible number
- how many different numbers can they make? Try using one, two and three numbers!

Adding and Subtracting (Card 2b)

Have children practise adding and subtracting numbers on the card, placing the correct number of Mathlink Cubes in each row. By using the grid, children will see what happens when numbers cross ten: a digit (or in this case a cube) needs to be carried onto the next value.



A Mathlink Cube measures 20mm on every side. Place a cube on the template at the top of the page and then against a ruler to demonstrate. Using the simple exercises on card 7a can the children work out the answers? Extend the learning by using the cubes for irregular measurement. How many Mathlink Cubes long is a pencil? How about a pencil eraser? Now use these findings to create your own exercises (for example two pencils take away a pencil eraser leaves how many mm?) Explore with cm too!

Adding and Subtracting Millimeters (Card 7a)

through the remaining sums.

Mathlink Cubes can be used to help visualise how fractions are added. When adding fractions with the same denominator, we only change the numerators. Look at the top example. Have children build the fraction as shown, to demonstrate the working. Progress

Adding and Subtracting Fractions (Card 6b)

Work through the remaining challenges. Play with fractions! How many more equivalent fractions can you find together?

This card introduces equivalent fractions (those that are the same in terms of size, but expressed with different numbers). Have them build fractions showing $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ with the Mathlink Cubes. Show how the top number (numerator) and the bottom number (denominator) of the right hand fraction are exact multiples of those of the left hand fraction. (The numbers have to divide or multiply without any remainders to be exact equivalents.)

Finding Equivalent Fractions (Card 6a)

Practise building more fractions: this visual method will lay the foundations for the following activities.

how $\frac{1}{2} =$ one whole.

Have children build the $\frac{1}{2}$ model as shown. Now, have them build $\frac{2}{4}$ in the designated space. Can they build $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$? Talk about

Building Fractions (Card 5b)

Experiment with building and identifying representations of tenths.

Use the Mathlink Cubes to build the block of 10 cubes at the top of the card. Explain that when an object is made up of 10 equal parts each part can be referred to as a tenth. Remove one cube from this block and introduce this as $\frac{1}{10}$. This visual representation should aid understanding. Use the second template on the card to assist in understanding that, in this example three pieces can be represented as $\frac{3}{10}$. See if they can build a representation of $\frac{7}{10}$ and $\frac{9}{10}$.

Understanding Tenths (Card 5a)

Select 36 Mathlink Cubes. Ask the children to divide the cubes equally onto the houses (encourage them to build vertical rods). How many cubes are in each house? Are there any left-over? Add or subtract more cubes and ask how many more or less would there be in each house? How about if there was one more house?

Division (Card 4b)

Can they talk about these facts in terms of division?

On these cards, children can count in 3's, 4's and 8's. Encourage them to build the Mathlink Cubes into the corresponding numbers. (Using different colours can make it more fun!) Then as they place the cubes onto the template support them in counting in multiples. For example 8, 16, 24. Repeat again and again and once they become confident, extend their learning: Can they count backwards?

Counting in Multiples – Set 1 (Cards 3a – 4a)

125	+ 3	206	+ 44	791	+ 163	644	– 132
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Try the following sums:

These cards have an overview of Roman Numerals from 1 – 10 and then the Roman Numerals for 50 and 100. Using these you can create all numbers up to 499 (500 being D). On the right hand side of card 10a are some exercises to practise recognising how Roman Numerals are used together to make numbers. The top answer is already provided. Explain that by putting a numeral of lesser value before a numeral of greater value decreases the second numeral by the amount of the first (for example IV equals four because V (five) is decreased by I (one)). Likewise putting a numeral of lesser value after a numeral or greater value increases the first numeral by the amount of the second. (Thus VI equals six because V (five) is increased by I (one)). Can the children work out the rest of the answers by placing the corresponding Mathlink Cubes onto the card? Card 10b extends the learning by allowing space for three Roman Numerals to be used. The final space is left blank so that the children can make their own questions to challenge their friends!

Roman Numerals (Cards 10a – 10b)

own number problems either on scrap paper or on the white board.

Ask the children to consider the number problems on Card 9b. They must identify the correct answer by placing a Mathlink Cube on the space which shows either 1000 more or 1000 less than the original number. To extend the learning let the children make their

Recognising 1000 More or 1000 Less (Card 9b)

pets? How about babies?

correctly? Next see if they can plot their own family unit onto the bar chart. How many boys in their home? How many girls? Any presented on the right and ask them to plot this onto the bar chart using the Mathlink Cubes. Have they understood the process way to remember which is which is across (sounds like 'a cross', describing the 'x'). Point the children to the data horizontal, showing what type of data each column represents: y axis for vertical, showing a value for each type of data). An easy

Start by explaining to the children that a bar chart is one of many ways to record information. Explain the axis of the chart (x axis for Bar Charts (Card 9a)

Bar Charts (Card 9a)

bottom. What things in the world can the children think of that are horizontal? How about vertical?

vertical. Likewise a vertical line is always at a right angle to a horizontal plane in an alignment so that the top is directly above the explain that the word horizontal means to run parallel to the plain or the horizon. Horizontal lines are always at right angles to the children that the cubes lying down in a row are 'horizontal' and the ones that are tall like a tower are 'vertical'. You could further the template with a single block they will have to build the blocks up like a tower. Once the templates are complete explain to the Start by having children place the corresponding number of Mathlink Cubes onto the templates provided. They will realise that for

Identifying Horizontal and Vertical Lines (Card 8b)

To extend the learning try saying out loud the properties of a shape and see if the children can identify them. What other shapes can they make?

- How many faces does it have?
- What shape are the faces?
- How many edges does it have?
- How does a cuboid differ?

example:

Ask children to build the shapes on the cards. What do they look like from different angles? Discuss the properties of a cube, for

Building 3D Shapes (Card 8a)

given. Can they use graph paper to draw their own shapes and challenge their friends to work out the perimeter?

Perimeter is the distance measured around the outside boundary of an object (or, the length of each edge). Start by explaining to the children that for the purposes of perimeter you need to think of the Mathlink Cubes as 2-dimensional objects (as opposed to cubes), just like they are depicted on the card. As each side of a cube is 2cm in length the perimeter of a single cube is 8cm (or 2cm + 2cm + 2cm + 2cm = 8cm). Once the children are confident with this allow them to try to work out the perimeter of the examples

Measuring Perimeter (Card 7b)

Counting in Multiples – Set 2 (Cards 11a – 12b)

On these cards, children can count in 6's, 7's, 9's & 12's. Encourage them to build the Mathlink Cubes into the corresponding numbers; using different colours can make it more fun! Then as they place the cubes onto the template support them in counting in multiples. For example 9, 18, 27. Repeat and once they become confident add on more sets to extend the table. Try demonstrating the 11 times table trick whereby each digit increases by 1 (11, 22, 33, 44 etc). This will build confidence.

Symmetry (Cards 13a – 13b)

Explain to the children that something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides. A shape has symmetry if a central dividing line (or mirror line) can be drawn on it, to show that both sides of the shape are exactly the same. The example on card 13a shows half of a shape. Ask the children to build this shape with the Mathlink Cubes and place it on the template. Now have them imagine the shape's mirror image on the other side of the dividing line. Ask them to build the other half of the shape. Is it symmetrical? Why? Extend the learning on card 13b. Ask the children to build three new shapes. Use the template and the mirror line to test if the shape is symmetrical. Finally explore shapes in the real world. Can you find three objects that are symmetrical and three that aren't?

Negative Numbers (Card 14a)

Using the number line, introduce children to the concept of positive and negative numbers. Working through the number problems presented, encourage the children to place Mathlink Cubes onto the number line and then remove/move the cubes to solve the problem. Once the children are confident with using negative numbers extend the learning by asking questions, for example "The temperature on Thursday morning is -3°C. The temperature on Friday morning is 1°C. How much warmer is it on Friday morning than on Thursday morning?"

Percentages (Card 14b)

Explain to the children that fractions can also be presented as percentages. Start by explaining that a complete object is 100%, half of an object is 50% etc. Now, looking at the exercises presented, are the children able to identify what percentage of each shape is white? Extend the learning by explaining that each percentage also has a decimal equivalent (100% = 1, 50% = 0.5, 25% = 0.25 etc). See if they can repeat the exercise using the decimal equivalents.

Area (Card 15a)

Explain to the children that 'area' is a term used to define the amount of space taken up by a 2D shape. We measure area in square units, in this case cm². Area is calculated by multiplying the length of a shape by its width (2 dimensions). In the example at the top of card 15a we are able to work out the area of a Mathlink Cube because we know its length and width are 2cm. 2 cm X 2 cm = 4 cm². Let the children try to work out the area of the first two exercises and then provide assistance on the final exercise if required.

Volume (Card 15b)

Explain to the children that 'volume' is the amount of 3D space an object occupies or takes up. If you are working out how much fluid this space can hold we call this the objects 'capacity'. Volume/capacity is measure in cubed units, in this case cm³. Volume is calculated in a very similar way to area, but in the case of volume we multiply the length of a shape by the width of a shape by the height of a shape (3 dimensions). In the example at the top of card 15b we are able to work out the volume of a Mathlink Cube because we know its length, width and height are all 2cm. 2 cm X 2 cm X 2 cm = 8 cm³. Let the children try to work out the volume of the exercises and provide support if required.



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