



Early Years


Room to Learn: Telling

More

Teaching Ideas

the Story of Australia's Classrooms

Start planning your involvement in National Literacy and Numeracy Week by looking at the core activity Teaching Ideas. Then continue here, where you will find more ideas to extend and continue the discussion with your class

Suggestions marked with this symbol  are follow-up activities using the National Data which will be made available on the website, and emailed to registered schools, shortly after the Week finishes. Using the National Data will help your students build a true picture of Australia's classrooms, and how their classroom compares with others around the country.

Number

- There are lots of **number story books**. Why not find some new ones for your students?
- Try playing musical numbers. When the music stops, call out a number (say 3) and the children form groups of that size.

Discuss the numbers of students from the data.



- What is the largest number of students in one classroom? Do they have the biggest classroom?
- What is the smallest number of students in one classroom? Do they have the smallest classroom?
- How many other classrooms have the same number of students as yours?


Shape

- Join hands and make shapes as a whole group. How many different shapes can you make?
- Try playing musical shapes with the children in groups. When the music stops, call out a shape (say a triangle) and each group forms that shape. Compare and contrast the shapes made. Lots of cooperation and leadership needed!

- Make shape(s) from lengths of string and then describe the shape to another person.
- Make masking tape shapes on the desk or carpet and measure around them.
- Explore edges through looking at the shapes you can find in your classroom.


Measurement

- Give the children 3 different shapes. Each shape represented the top of a cake, which one would have the most space for decorating? How do you know? What other factors might be considered? Decorate your "cake".
- Show the children three different "presents". Ask them to visualize the size of the piece of wrapping paper they would need. Give them different sized pieces of paper and ask them to choose which they think is appropriate. Then wrap them up!
- Cover an area completely (no overlaps and no spaces). You could use tiles, coloured paper cut into different shapes (make a mosaic?), hand prints, foot prints (messy but fun!) etc. How many do you think you will need to cover the area?

- How much space do you have in your classroom? How much space do you need for different activities? How big do you think your classroom needs to be? 

Age

Explore what is old and new in different contexts (e.g., buildings, cars, trees, people, stories).

- How old is Australia's oldest classroom? The newest? Make a number line and then place the age of your classroom on it. Add in the ages of the children (and the teacher). 

Your Classroom

- Represent your own classroom.
 - Make a map or a model of your classroom.
 - What features will you include? Why?
 - Photograph or draw your model from different perspectives.
- Write a story about your classroom.
- What would your ideal classroom be like?
 - Discuss as a class.
 - Each child could draw a picture of one aspect of the ideal classroom. Combine with other pictures into a wall display.

What was the most common view from an Australian classroom? The least common? The most unusual?



- Make a pictograph of the different views.
 - How many schools nominated the same view as your classroom?
 - Do the other classrooms in your school have the same view?
 - What would you like to see when you look out from your classroom?
-