

Number Rods & Numerals

Usage Instructions · 3–6 yrs · Mathematics

Why this material matters

Concrete-to-abstract journey: quantity first, symbol second, then the union of the two. Presenting it thoughtfully is what turns a beautiful object into a developmental experience.

Prepare the Environment

- Present the material on a clean tray or mat, at child height.
- Sit slightly behind or beside the child — never opposite. This aligns your gaze with theirs.
- Have all pieces in place before you invite the child. Interruptions break concentration.

Present the Material

- Slow your movements to roughly half normal speed. Children read pace as importance.
- Use as few words as possible. Let the hands teach.
- Isolate the concept — introduce only one new idea per session.
- Complete a full cycle: get, use, restore. Return the material to its home together.

Observe Before You Intervene

- Watch quietly for at least 3 minutes before intervening.
- Note which parts absorb them and which frustrate them — adjust future presentations, not the current one.
- Resist correcting mistakes in the moment. Re-present at a later session instead.

Language & Encouragement

- Name what the child is doing, not how well: ‘You are pouring slowly.’
- Avoid praise like ‘good job.’ Prefer specific acknowledgement: ‘You filled both cups to the same line.’
- Introduce vocabulary using the three-period lesson: this is / show me / what is this?

Care & Rotation

- Store the material on an open, uncluttered shelf.
- Rotate materials in and out of view every 2–3 weeks to sustain interest.
- Repair or retire any piece that becomes unsafe. Model respect for the tools of learning.

This material specifically

Rod Sequence. Lay rods in order from 1 to 10, aligning left edges. Count segments on each rod.

Numeral Match. Introduce wooden numerals 1–10. Match each numeral to the correct rod.

Safety Notes

All Destined Hub materials are non-toxic and finished with water-based, food-safe sealants. Always supervise children under three with any small-part material. Retire any piece that becomes cracked or splintered.