

Early Maths Picture Bingo

15-minute suggested lesson | Reception and Key Stage 1 | 1-4 players

Connect small quantities and simple mathematical actions with their words and symbols.

Learning goals

- Match one, two and three to small sets of objects.
- Explain one mathematical action using objects: add, take away, count or measure.

Prepare

- Print the pack on A4 landscape and cut the four player cards apart. Keep the caller sheet and counters ready.
- Prepare three large classroom objects, a ruler and two equal small groups of objects for demonstrations.

Card pack: A4 landscape, 100% scale. This teacher guide: A4 portrait. Use age-appropriate counters.

Teach and play

0-4 min / Build meanings with objects

Show sets of one, two and three. Demonstrate adding one object, taking one away and counting. Show two equal groups and use a ruler to model measuring length.

4-6 min / Introduce the card symbols

Match each demonstration to its caller tile. Give out cards, mark FREE and show a winning row of three.

6-12 min / Call and demonstrate

Shuffle the eight tiles. Say the exact label and, where useful, show the action. Keep called tiles aside and check claimed lines against them.

12-15 min / Explain one match

Ask a child to make a set of two or demonstrate adding one object. Show equal groups and invite an explanation of 'equal'. Revisit meanings that are unclear.

Quick learning check

Can the child demonstrate an action as well as locate its symbol? A correct bingo match alone does not show understanding of calculation.

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Caller prompts and teaching notes | Keep beside the caller sheet

Start with direct labels. Keep called tiles aside. Mark FREE before play; check a row, column or diagonal of three against the call record. All cards share eight items: line wins may tie and full-house games finish together.

Eight labels - matched to the card pack

One	Show one object. Find One.
Two	Show two objects. Find Two.
Three	Show three objects. Find Three.
Add	Put another object with a group. Find Add.
Take away	Remove an object from a group. Find Take away.
Equal	Show two groups with the same number. Find Equal.
Count	Touch each object once and say how many. Find Count.
Measure	Use a ruler to find a length. Find Measure.

Teaching note

This is a vocabulary pack, not eight number cards or an arithmetic worksheet. The equal sign means 'has the same value as', not 'the answer comes next'. Demonstrate the meaning with matching groups. Count and Measure are actions; say the intended label when a demonstration could fit more than one word.

Support / extension

Support: Use real objects alongside the symbols and model one action at a time. Let pupils show their answer with objects rather than explain it verbally.

Extend: Change the quantities but keep the same action. Ask pupils to make two groups equal in number and explain what they changed.