

You Can... Use an interactive whiteboard for number line activities

Using a whiteboard for number line activities allows the whole class to be involved. It also enables you to clearly and visually demonstrate 'hopping' or 'jumping' between numbers, perhaps using a fun Clip Art image, such as a frog. You can create your own number line, or your whiteboard software may provide ready-made number lines. Interactive number lines can also be downloaded from the DFES Interactive teaching programs website (www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/mathematics/itps/).

Thinking points

- Create your own number lines using the drawing tool in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint. Add the numbers by typing them into text boxes underneath the line and use objects from Clip Art, or the arrow tool, to move along the number line.
- Remember that your number line doesn't have to begin at 0 or 1. It could start at a 2- or 3-digit number, depending on the ages and abilities of the children.
- Children need a picture of the ordered numbers in their heads. Make sure that you use a mixture of complete, demarcated and blank interactive number lines to support children's understanding of number.
- Think about different ways in which interactive number lines can be used in your lessons: for example, counting, performing mental calculations and jotting down intermediate calculations.

Tips, ideas and activities

- Position a marker on a number line with given end points, and hide the number. Challenge children to estimate and then accurately work out what the number is, before revealing it.

- Use the number line as a visual aid to help children to count forwards and backwards. Demonstrate addition and subtraction calculations using a Clip Art frog to show the 'hops' backwards and forwards.



- For a quick mental starter, display an unordered number line. Ask children to drag individual number cards to the correct position and complete any missing numbers.
- Divide the class into two teams. Place Clip Art goalposts at each end of the number line. Place a Clip Art football at the centre of the number line (above number 5 on a 0 – 10 number line). Each team takes turns to roll a large dice. One team always adds the number on the dice and the other team always subtracts the number on the dice. The football is moved to the correct number each time. The team that gets the football in their goal first wins the game.
- Reinforce mathematical language such as 'the number before' and 'the number after'. Ask questions such as *What number comes in between?* using the number line to illustrate examples.