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## 6 Pieces of Background Information about Number Fun in MAP



### Background 1: 20 Years of Number Fun

Number Fun has been used widely in schools since 2003. It is the brainchild of Dave Godfrey, one of the co-creators of MAP. The full Number Fun suite of resources includes over 500 videos that support the teaching and learning of different mathematical objectives. The resources span the primary age-range and the 10 domains of the National Curriculum.

### Background 2: Engaging Children in Deep Learning Experiences

Number Fun videos have the following characteristics: visualisation, animation, vocabulary, story, song and humour. Number Fun has become a set of creative, inclusive and non-threatening resources that powerfully engage children in deep mathematical learning experiences.

### Background 3: Number Fun Resources for MAP

Many of the Number Fun resources have naturally become part of MAP. These include 150+ Videos (for counting, learning of facts and mental strategies), Story Characters and Mental Strategy Catchphrases.

### Background 4: MAP Number Fun Hyperlink Documents

The full range of videos supporting the MAP objectives can be found in a set of hyperlink documents. Within each document, a specific video is accessed by clicking the relevant thumbnail.

- Counting Videos
- Fact Videos
- Mental Strategy Videos

### Background 5: Additional Resources that Accompany Each Video

Each Number Fun Video is accompanied by: a PowerPoint Presentation (containing the song lyrics and some graphics, suitable for editing), a Teacher Ideas Pack (PDF document with ideas, gamecards etc.. - these are currently being upgraded), Full Track and Backing Track mp3 recordings (for creative use, e.g. when adapting the lyrics or challenging children to sing the song with no assistance.)

### Background 6: Number Fun Characters, Catchphrases and Posters

MAP utilises some of the many Number Fun Characters. These characters can be found across the range of videos recommended for use within MAP. They are particularly important within the Mental Strategy videos because each strategy features a key character, a story context and a catchphrase to help children learn, understand and remember that strategy. The accompanying poster set includes all these Mental Strategy characters alongside catchphrases and thumbnails of the Mental Strategies they promote and represent.



Navigating Mental Mathematics

# Using Number Fun Resources Effectively



## 6 Types of Number Fun Videos Recommended for Use Within MAP



### Counting Videos:

- **Type 1: Counting Story Videos** that help children learn to count using story, characters and images supporting the development of conceptual understanding.
- **Type 2: Counting Fluency Videos** that focus solely on counting fluency.

### Fact Videos:

- **Type 3: Fact Memory Videos** that help children to learn and memorise key facts.
- **Type 4: Fact Recall Videos** that challenge children to recall the key facts they have learnt.

### Mental Strategy Videos:

- **Type 5: Strategy Learning Videos** that help children to understand and learn the mental strategies, using story characters, contexts and animations.
- **Type 6: Strategy Application Videos** that challenge children to utilise a range of mental strategies with a given set of numbers.



## 6 Creative and Flexible Ways of Using a Number Fun Video



### Use 1: Play and Engage

Children watch and engage with the video, e.g. using actions and movement.

### Use 2: Play and Mirror

Children manipulate concrete resources alongside the video, e.g. when introducing a new mental strategy.

### Use 3: Play and Reason

Children watch for new learning before discussing and reasoning about the content. They then re-watch with new understanding. Alternatively children are taken through a video in chunks, with regular pausing for reasoning and the development of conceptual understanding, e.g. when introducing new facts to memorise or a new mental strategy.

### Use 4: Play and Retell

After watching the video, children retell the story and its embedded learning without the use of the video, e.g. when practising a mental strategy.

### Use 5: Play and Remember

Regular use develops neural pathways that helps children remember and recall facts and strategies.

### Use 6: Play and Game

Teachers utilise screenshots for games and activities, e.g. using screenshots to create memory trading cards or posters for a working wall. Note: All 28 Recall Accelerator Challenges have prepared posters and a set of gamecards which can be found in the accompanying Teacher Ideas Packs.



Navigating Mental Mathematics

# Using Number Fun Resources Effectively



## Powerful Characteristics of a Number Fun Video



### Characteristic 1: Visualisation

Children have something to focus on that engages their attention.

### Characteristic 2: Animation

Children see the images moving, revealing the underlying mathematics and aiding understanding.

### Characteristic 3: Story

Children readily understand abstract concepts when they are organised in story form.

### Characteristic 4: Song

Music and song are embedded within our culture – we are ‘wired for sound’. Most children naturally engage with the creative use of music and remember the lyrics when put to music.

### Characteristic 5: Humour

Number Fun aims to bring fun and enjoyment into learning, including the use of fun-filled story contexts and characters.

### Characteristic 6: Definitions and Vocabulary

Many of the videos contain concise definitions children can learn. They also use exact technical vocabulary.



## 6 Benefits to Utilising a Number Fun Video



### Benefit 1: Bite-sized Teaching Tools

By utilising the characteristics listed above, these videos become powerful, creative, focused and flexible teaching tools.

### Benefit 2: Inclusive and Non-Threatening

Rather than children being put on the spot and responding with anxiety, all children can respond together, without threat, in time with the music.

### Benefit 3: Repetition

The Number Fun videos bear repetition. Children eagerly re-watch videos because they enjoy the song, the story and challenges found within them.

### Benefit 4: Memory

Kylie Minogue once sang, ‘I just can’t get you out of my head’. Children readily remember lyrics when put to a catchy tune. The use of story is another powerful tool for memory.

### Benefit 5: Formative Assessment

The videos will help assess your children’s knowledge and understanding. This might come through reasoning about a video’s content or by observing the level of response to the challenges found within a video.

### Benefit 6: Engagement in Learning

This is the crux of the issue. Number Fun helps engage children in deep mathematical learning experiences.

See <https://numberfunportal.com/using-portal-effectively> for a set of bite-sized videos that outline how to use the Number Fun Portal effectively. Many of the points made above can be found within this set of training videos. Dave Godfrey, June 2023