



British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association  
of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Create

Imagine

Explore

Play

Wonder



# Spring

# 2023

# Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Alex Peters: [BCPTAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:BCPTAnewsletter@gmail.com)

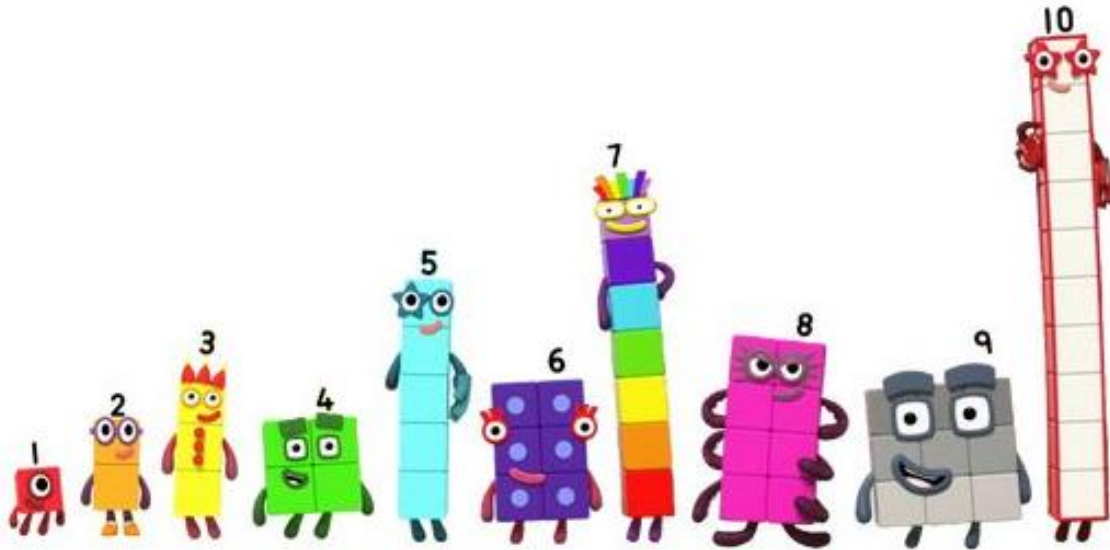
<http://www.bcpta.ca/wordpress/>



Numberblocks is a BBC television show that teaches children natural number sense and a solid foundation of mathematical understanding. These episodes are available on Netflix and YouTube, and are relevant for students in grades K-3, or even younger.

It's not just counting, it's number names and numerals • recognising amounts on sight • comparing numbers • putting numbers in order • missing numbers • adding • subtracting • number bonds • number patterns • odds and evens • doubling and halving • multiplication • division • dozens more number skills • thinking for yourself • being creative • building confidence • solving problems • everything clicking into place • having fun with numbers

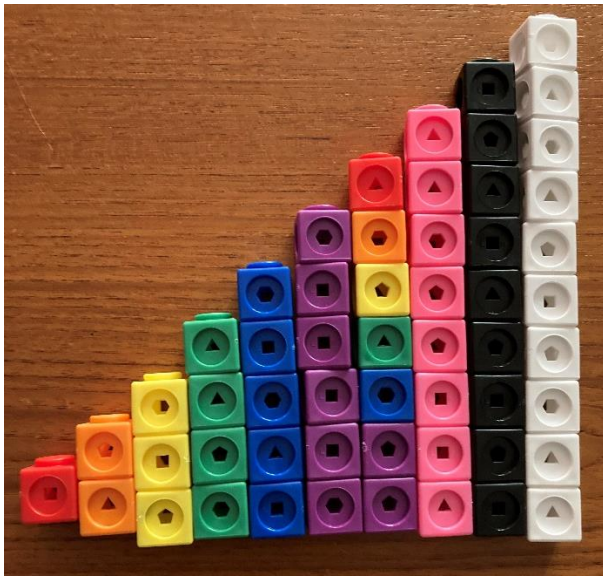
I discovered Numberblocks when my then 3 year old son found it on Kids YouTube, and I realized how well done the show is. By the time he was 4, he was skip counting forwards and backwards, counting to 100, adding and subtracting and doing simple multiplication. His favourite activity was adding addresses, because he decided that's how much a house was worth, so if the address was 3571, he would add  $3+5+7+1$ , and say that the house was worth \$16. At 4.5, his favourite activity is reading the speed limit signs and checking to see if we are driving the correct speed. Recently we were exiting the freeway and he saw the 50km/h sign up ahead and asked what speed we were going. We said 74km/h, he said that is more, then after thinking for a few minutes said that is 2 tens and 4 more.



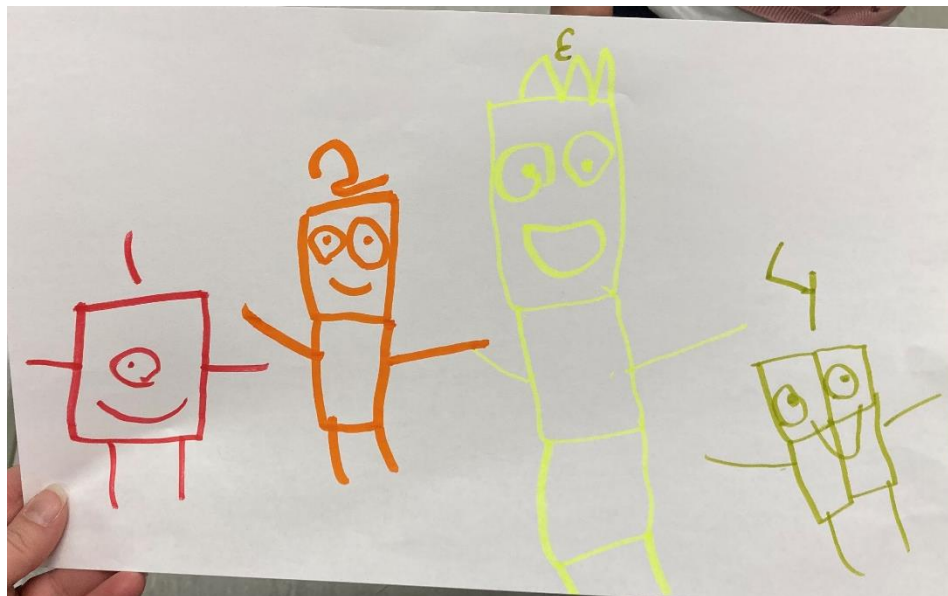
Numberblocks uses blocks (similar to unifix or multilink cubes) to create the numbers from 1-10. It visually shows students how numbers are created and how if you combine two numbers you get a third. For example, if you combine a red one with an orange two they combine and turn into the yellow three.

When I started showing it to my Kindergarten class as well as telling all my friends and family about the show, I discovered that my students that came to Kindergarten with super strong math skills (e.g. doing 2-digit addition) had been watching the show at home.

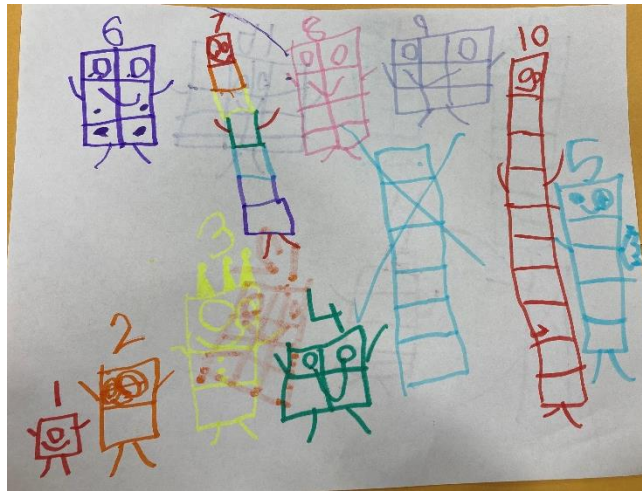
After watching a few episodes, I had the students use multilink cubes to create the Numberblocks characters in class so that we could use them to learn the different ways to make 5 and 10, as well as to visually see what happens when you add or subtract 1 or 2. (All of which are items of the Kindergarten Math Curriculum). The students started using Numberblocks in multiple ways.



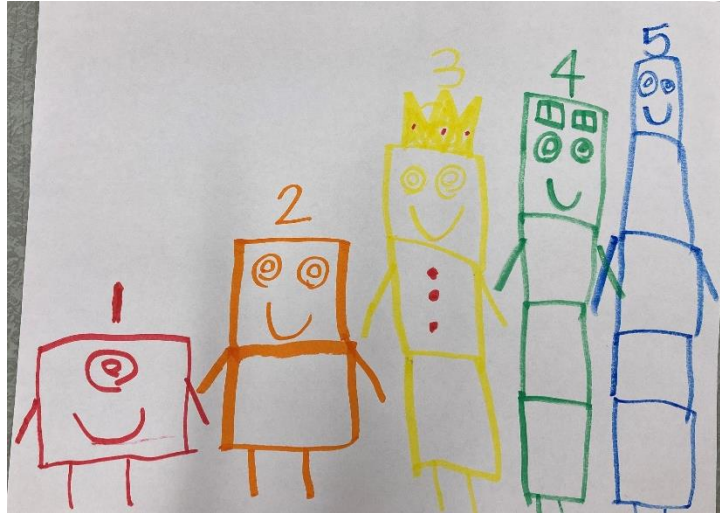
Here is a photo of the Numberblocks “characters” created with multilink cubes.



Drawing the Numberblocks during Centres.



Using the Numberblocks as a way to represent numbers.



The show is split into 5 levels:

Numbers up to 5: Level 1 introduces the first five numbers and foundation skills including counting, recognising amounts on sight, comparing and sorting numbers and simple addition and subtraction.

Numbers up to 10: Level 2 takes us up to ten, developing the foundation skills and introducing number bonds, odds and evens, square numbers, number patterns, shapes and more.

Numbers up to 20: Level 3 takes us past ten with numbers who discover place value, doubling and halving, multiplication, division, factors and new number patterns.

Numbers up to 50: Level 4 helps children become number explorers, discovering how the number system works and developing all their skills with two-digit numbers.

Numbers up to 100: Level 5 builds confidence in working and playing with numbers up to 100 and offers a sneak peak of how much bigger numbers work.

<https://www.learningblocks.tv/numberblocks/home>

# The BC Primary Teachers Association Executive

Here is your BCPTA Executive who put on the Primary Conference on the October PSA day.



Left to Right: Back row: Margaret Cavin, Leanne Gahan, Diane McKeen, Sarah Soltau, Donna Thomson, Janine Fraser, Joanna Larson Front row: Laurie Andrews, Alex Peters, Carol Johns, Cindy Gleb

Thank you to those members who attended the AGM on the Thursday night before the Conference. If you did not attend please consider attending next year, we provide great food, drinks and door prizes!



# **Your BCPTA Executive for 2023 is:**

President: Janine Fraser

Vice President: Sarah Soltau

Treasurer: Joanna Larson

Pro-D Coordinator: Carol Johns

Conference Coordinator: Kyla Shiels

Conference Registrar: Donna Thomson

Facility Coordinator: Laurie Andrews

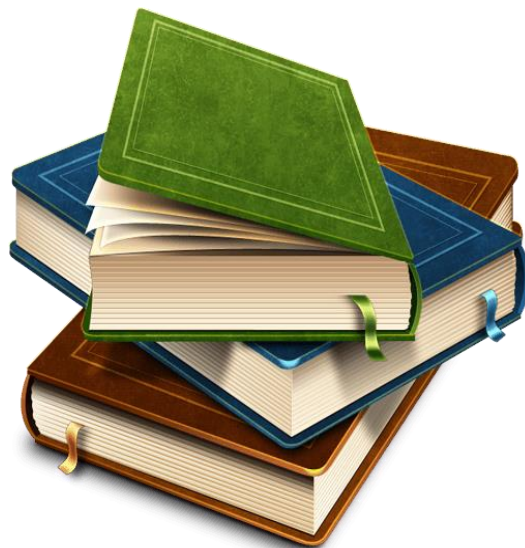
Secretary: Leanne Gahan

Newsletter Editor: Alex Peters

Web Manager: Denise Sammon

Chapter & Membership Coordinator: Cindy Gleb

Member-at-large: Diane McKeen





# THINKING OF STARTING A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE BC PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION?

This is all it takes:

- A start up committee of five to six teachers
- A meeting time and place to elect an executive
- A membership open to all interested primary educators
- Contact with the BCPTA Membership and Chapter Coordinator

Local Chapters are provided with:

- The ability to apply for a support grant
- The ability to apply for a Professional development grant
- Communication and support with the members of the BCPTA Executive
  - Newsletter
  - Opportunity to communicate with other BCPTA chapters in the province as well as other PSA's, the BCTF and government ministries

If you require further information please contact our chapter coordinator, or visit the Chapter Information area on our website: [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca)

**Contact:** Cindy Gleb, Chapter Coordinator [cindy.gleb@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:cindy.gleb@sd5.bc.ca)

## YEARLY CHAPTER SUPPORT

We give: \$200 grants each year to registered chapters when they register at the start of each school year.

# Annual BCPTA Chapter Registration Form

District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Primary Association \_\_\_\_\_  
President or contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Election \_\_\_\_\_ for the term/year 2022 - 2023

## President/Contact Person:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Home \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Return annually  
and correct any  
changes to  
contacts' names  
and addresses**

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (school)

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer or Second Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Home \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this  
information  
sheet to:  
Cindy Gleb  
cindy.gleb@sd5.bc.ca**

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (school)

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_