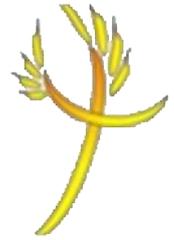


Place Value for Parents and Carers



A good understanding of place value (the value of each digit in a number) is vital in primary-school maths. This parents' guide explains how your child will be taught about units, tens, hundreds and thousands with number lines, arrow cards and more, as well as outlining how place value is used to help children visualize calculations.

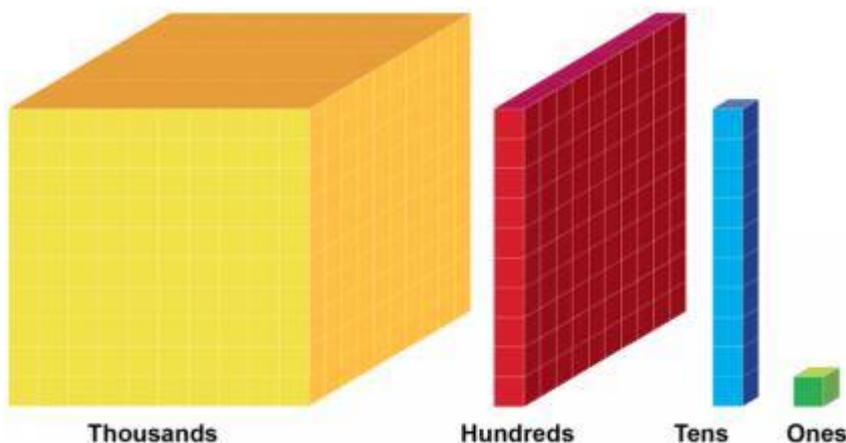
What is place value?

Place value is the **value of each digit** in a number. It means understanding that 582 is made up of 500, 80 and 2, rather than 5, 8 and 2.

How are children taught to understand place value in KS1?

In school two maths aids are used to help make place value clear to children.

Deines blocks are blocks in which cubes represent units / ones, rods of ten cubes represent tens, flats of 100 cubes represent hundreds and blocks of 1000 cubes represent thousands:

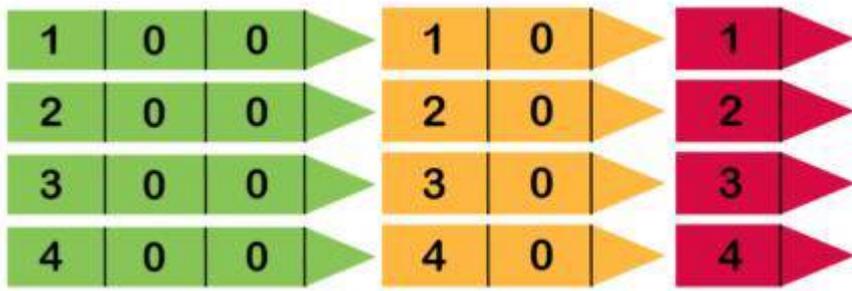


In Key Stage 1, a child might be given some ten and units (ones) Deines blocks and asked to make a number such as 43. They would need to select 4 tens rods and 3 ones blocks. This makes it very clear to them that a two-digit number is made up of tens and ones. It also helps them to practise counting in tens.

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Arrow cards look like this:



A child might be asked to make the number 34 using arrow cards. They would need to take the 30 and the 4 and put them together so that the arrows were lined up. This again helps to make clear that a two-digit number is made up of tens and ones.

Taking a number and "splitting it apart again" is called **partitioning**.

E.g. 34 is actually 30 and 4.

It is **absolutely vital** that children understand place value before they can go onto adding and subtracting two-digit numbers.

Tools for Parents:

You can use all sorts of things to show place value.

- Bundles of drinking straws (and cut up into ten pieces for units).
- Packs of Fruitella (10 in each pack).
- Packs of 10 coloured pencils and then single pencils.
- 10p pieces and 1p pieces.
- Lego (sticks for tens and single units).

Helpful Websites:

www.ictgames.com (numeracy - place value)

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games (5-7 years - place value)

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths/games/place_the_penguin/big_sound/full.shtml

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/place_value_games.html

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