

ACTIVITY IA3.9: Numeral Grid Sequences

Intended learning: To build facility with forward and backward number word sequences.

Instructional mode: Shorter, rehearsal mode for individuals.

- ⑨ **Materials:** Numeral grid with blank grid on the reverse, 1 red translucent chip, 1 green translucent chip.

Description: This activity allows the student to rehearse a relatively short sequence of numbers (typically ten or less terms) with an intentional fade of scaffolding. The activity is designed to do all the steps in one session in order to promote visualization. Follow the steps below.

1. Place the green and red chips respectively on the first and last numeral in the sequence (see Figure 3.5).

771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790
791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810
811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820

Figure 3.5 A numeral grid with chips marking beginning and ending of sequence

2. The student begins with the number covered by the green chip and says each number in the sequence while touching the numeral on the grid. The student stops upon reaching the red chip.
3. The student repeats step 2 until he or she can say the sequence smoothly.
4. Turn the grid over to the 'blank' side. Place the chips in the squares that would correspond with the first and last numbers of the sequence if the numerals were visible on the blank grid.

5. The student says the sequence and points to the empty squares. The structure of the grid will provide a scaffold for students in that the student quickly realizes that the square at the right margin of the grid will be a decuple number. If a student makes a mistake, the structure will prompt the student to correct the mistake without the teacher needing to intervene.
6. Once the student can say the sequence while touching the blank side, the grid is removed completely from sight. The student is then prompted to think about the grid and point to the tabletop while repeating the sequence. If the student struggles, the grid can be resupplied in order for the student to check.
7. Finally, the student is asked to close his or her eyes to say the sequence.