**Ideas for Early childhood settings **

Numicon fits in the early childhood curriculum with greatest of ease!

In fact, it's a resource that works best amongst the activities that are already provided in the average kindergarten/early childhood setting.

Numicon is introduced as an integrated approach into children's natural play.

Put out Numicon everywhere, available for all children to access -

* Playdough table,
* Natural resource table,
* Mat time activities e.g. finger rhymes, music, action songs
* Daily routines e.g. Children can use 2 paper towels, can eat 4 pieces of fruit
* Outside – eg. throwing bean bags into Numicon labelled buckets
* Sandpit
* Family corner - pretending shopping, pretend food etc
* Block corner, Duplo
* Board games
* Books
* Waterplay
* Art
* Cooking
* Musical instruments
* Puzzle table (I would have the white board here)

What will make Numicon work well in EC?

 When the teachers begin to describe (using mathematical language) what children are naturally noticing about Numicon. This is a strong teaching approach in early childhood - (allowing children to lead us in their learning) so they would naturally support children stage they're at.  In these early years it is a lot about exposure and experimenting with maths through using the Numicon resources.

Link it to Te Whaariki and all through your planning.

Montessori – A more formal in their teaching/learning with respect to the Montessori philosophy. For example, all the equipment was developed by Maria Montessori and this equipment remains the same to this day!  Each centre will have core activities.

Each centre differs in how the teachers **interpret** Maria Montessori's philosophy.  Some are purist and won’t do anything that differs from what Maria did herself - e.g. One centre will not use digital cameras.    However, some centres are not so strong about this.

Numicon could be used as a separate activity for children to use a specific way.

**Numicon encourages us to be creative.**

**Numicon encourages us to how we think about maths**

**Numicon makes us feel COMFORTABLE about Maths - No doubt about this!**