Numeracy involves the range of skills that reflect being able to represent, classify, understand numbers, spatial relations and time within meaningful contexts.

**How do children learn to count?**
One of the first experiences children have with numbers is "counting". Counting starts as a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme, we sometimes refer to this as ‘number sense’. The children may not necessarily initially relate the words to a quantity. Counting can be reinforced through storytelling, picture books, songs and rhymes. Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and the song Five Little Ducks all contain examples of counting. (Count Me In Too Website.)

**At home** - Count the objects when you set the table, hanging out the washing, eggs in the cartons, ask questions about numbers, play board games, before and after numbers and UNO.

**Hands-on learning**
In the early years, children learn through hands-on experiences involving manipulative materials such as counters, blocks and dominoes. Allowing children to learn through hands-on experiences means they are able to develop a deeper understanding of mathematics. In the early years classroom mathematics is recorded through photographic observations and anecdotal records not necessarily through ‘pen and paper’ methods. At Turner School children work independently and in cooperative groups when exploring numeracy and mathematics.

**Numeracy and Play**
Children love to play. As teachers we use play as a teaching tool, it is not always ‘free play’. Scaffolded play allows children to be involved in a rich range of opportunities to explore, investigate, and engage in purposeful numeracy experiences. Linking play and numeracy allows for children to be engaged in real life situations and use real objects as a basis for hands-on investigation and learning. Below are some examples of play based numeracy which children can create at home.

- Using a woodwork bench as a basis for counting nails, measuring lengths of wood and designing projects.
- Blocks and building explores height and the language of position.
- Collecting and representing information through surveys then using this information to create graphs.
- Dramatic play-shops using calculators, money, adding together how much items cost, giving change and discounts.

**Count Me In Too**
Count Me In Too is a number program that is run in the early and middle years of schooling. This program incorporates the importance of a differentiated curriculum and the use of hands-on sensory learning to assist every child in reaching their potential. A vital use of this program is a one-on-one interview, where students work with the classroom teacher to complete a SENA 1 (junior years) or SENA 2 (middle/upper years) assessment. This assessment tool allows teachers to program activities that are targeted at an appropriate level for a group of children or individual students. During a balanced numeracy session the class may have several activities happening using similar equipment and resources however each group may have a slightly different focus to their activity depending on individual needs reflected from the SENA assessment tool.
How can I help my child with numeracy at home?

• Get involved- be proactive
• Be positive- avoid imparting your fears of Mathematics onto your child
• Demonstrate- show how Mathematics is applied to real-life situations- ie from your job/life
• Encourage- get your child to take part in activities that use their mathematical strategies and skills- like grocery shopping, building, measuring cooking ingredients.
• Talk- talk to your classroom teacher if there is a strategy of term you would like clarified or modelled.
• 100 charts- these can be purchased from newsagents or Office Works, or better yet make one together. These can be used for puzzles, games, number recognition and open ended questioning and number patterns.

Literature- read books which have strong links to numeracy and mathematics.
(Number)
Let’s Count Goats- Mem Fox
One is a Snail Ten is Crab-April and Jeff Sayre
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish- Dr Suess
Ten Apples Up on Top- Dr Suess
Counting on Frank-Rod Clement
(Volume/Capacity)
Who Sank the Boat- Pamela Allen
Mr Archimedes Bath- Pamella Allen
(Position)
Rosies Walk- Pat Hutchins

Internet Resources

Count Me In Too

Scootle
www.scootle.edu.au
This website in conjunction with the learning federation and offers a variety of different learning tools such as, photos, games, learning objectives, videos and news related topics.