

The story behind our maths toolboxes

Almost every maths leader we speak to is exasperated by the need to constantly repurchase class sets of resources that were supplied less than two or three years earlier. As maths leaders, we would sit for hours counting dice, distributing jars of resources to each classroom, building maths trolleys, but nothing worked long-term to keep each classroom well-resourced. We tried everything and, eventually, found that toolboxes were the long-term solution.

Our toolboxes were created by Australian maths leaders, who chose and tried the most durable materials we could find for daily hands-on mathematics for the early years and years 3-6. All materials are packed for you in class sets, within easy-to-maintain and distribute toolboxes to ensure you can maximise both your budget and your time. The quick distribution containers also make organisation and set-up/pack-up easier for teachers, encouraging more use of materials for maths. Containers can be moved around the room to avoid traffic jams and resources are easy to see and keep neat, mostly because students love the toolbox and volunteer to help maintain it too.

The toolboxes include custom-made resources that have been invented by Top Ten Mathematics. This includes **3-dot dice** for early subitising and more suspenseful maths games that lead to more recording after each roll. The newest addition are custom-made **centimetre-metre decimal conversion measuring tapes** (centimetres on one side, then flip the tape vertically to see the metre conversion). These are often used for races to 1 whole as a number line game, as well as regular measurement lessons.

The organised toolboxes with consistent contents make retaining resources and maximising the use of numeracy budgets from year-to-year a considerably easier process. **In term four, maths teams and leaders can simply collect, top up and swap toolboxes as teachers move year levels.** This avoids resources becoming lost as teachers change classrooms each year. The nature of the toolbox and its containers, with space for each material, reduces loss and makes it easier for teachers to use, maintain and then return the toolbox at the end of each year. Maths leaders can then add a few elements into toolboxes all at once, such as a new material for each year level, **rather than constantly starting from scratch.** Purchase additional toolboxes for extra classrooms at any time.

Early Years Toolbox Inclusions

Contents of the Early Years Toolbox

- 1 lightweight durable toolbox with 15 partner distribution containers
- 24 medium-sized no-noise foam dice
- 30 custom-made 3-dot dice: ideal for the early years as these are dice with only 1, 2 or 3 dots on each face, creating more opportunities for student recording and longer engagement for maths buddy games, and supporting subitising for intervention students.
- 30 one-to-one counting/skip-counting sticks
- 12 decks of premium jumbo number/playing cards for partner games
- 30 colourful 6-sided dice
- 30 colourful 10-sided dice
- 100 Pokémon counters for use as students' characters during race to 120 and similar games
- 15 grip mats for organised and silent use of materials throughout lessons

All for \$299 ex. GST, **free postage anywhere in Australia.**
For teachers purchasing for themselves, the entire cost is tax deductible.



Custom-made 3-dot dice for early years subitising and to keep games more interesting for longer (races to 10).

Years 3-6 Toolbox Inclusions

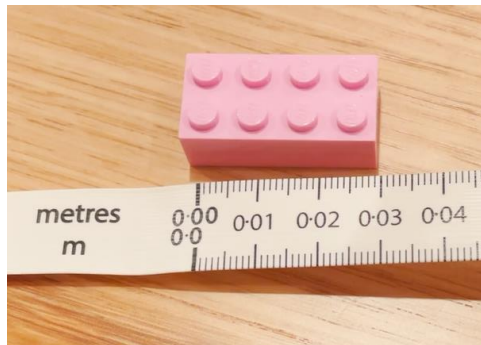
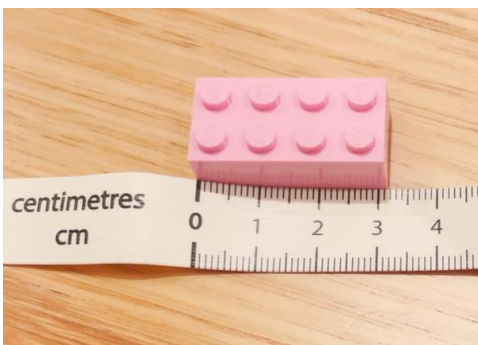
Contents of the Years 3 to 6 Toolbox

(also used by secondary schools for intervention)

- 1 lightweight durable toolbox with 15 partner distribution containers
- 15 centimetre/metre decimal conversion measuring tapes for decimal number line games and regular measurement lessons
- 200 Pokémon counters for higher student engagement during hands-on maths games, often used for fraction and division hands-on lessons, as well as integer and other number line and decimal chart games
- 12 decks of premium jumbo playing cards for hands-on warm-ups and games
- 30 custom-made 3-dot dice for slower, more suspenseful games, also requiring more recording after each turn
- 30 durable 6-sided dice
- 30 durable 10-sided dice
- 15 grip mats for organised and silent use of materials throughout lessons

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Who wants inches when you can have metres, and decimal conversions of cm/m?