

The Number Stick in comparison with other teaching aids (learning tools)	Number Stick Fun-Abacus						
		Unifix/Multilink/Centicube					
			Slavonic Abacus				
				Counters/Beads			
					Tens Frame		
				100S Bd	Dice		
FUNCTIONS							
unique 'dual number-line' model (relates to children's hands, to standard Number Lines, to the Tens Frame, and to the Slavonic Abacus)	✓						
uniquely generates the 'number family' patterns that are at the heart of a ' number family '* approach to early Numeracy. It shows both the addition-subtraction and multiplication-division members (bonds).	✓						
uniquely functions as a flexible dice , i.e. a dice of any 'size'	✓						
uniquely functions as a 'Subtraction Dice'TM - sets basic subtraction problems and provides the answers	✓						
provides a variety of math models	✓		✓				
addition-subtraction models	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
multiplication-division models	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
skip-counting & multiplication-table models	✓		✓	✓		✓	
re-naming/ 'part-whole' models	✓		✓				
place value and calculation models	✓	✓					
flexible 'base' models	✓						
APPLICATIONS							
counting, counting on, number recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
basic number facts (all areas)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
statistics and probability	✓	✓	✓	✓			
patterns and relations – early algebra	✓						✓
calculation – place value – study of bases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
use in a wide variety of games	✓			✓			✓
OTHER							
tool and toy, visual, tactile, motivating	✓			✓			
inexpensive – so children can have their own.	✓			✓			✓
transparent operation, c.f. 'black box' calculators	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* **Systematic** use of Number-Family methods and activities enables children to build a **number-family knowledge base**, first to 10 and then to 20, that facilitates strategic and 'part-whole' thinking.