

## Writing Numbers in Columns by 25's

The activity described here should be done as soon as the child can write numbers, which was second grade for this writer and classmates.

The child takes a pad of paper or Big Chief tablet and numbers down the left side from one to twenty-five. The child then takes a ruler and draws a line down the right side of the column of numbers, and begins a new column to the right of the line, from 26-50. Another line is drawn, and a third column from 51-75 is written. This continues until 200, and stops for the day. The next day the process resumes, from 201 to 400. The third day proceeds to 600. Work should continue until the child reaches about 4000 or 5000. Much is learned and discovered by this process. Counting by 5's is reinforced, and counting by 25's and 50's is mastered.

According to graduate students in a college methods course, Problems in Teaching Remedial Mathematics, Summer 1991, this activity of numbering in columns of 25 may have these benefits to students:

1. Practice in neatness
2. Development of concentration
3. Awareness of vastness of numbers (infinite nature of numbers)
4. Practice in recitation (audible or mental: at least two students reported doing this while numbering)
5. Experience of success
6. Learning the logical progression of numbers (decimal, place-value pattern)
7. Awareness of multiples of 25, 50, 100, and 5
8. Pattern of differences-of-fives in adjacent columns

These responses were given as or after the students had completed an abbreviated version of the exercise (numbering from 1851 to 2025 per the instructions above). Below is a start for primary-grade students:

1	26	51	76	...
2	27	52	77	...
3	28	53	78	...
4	29	54	79	...
5	30	55	80	...
6	31	56	81	...
7	32	57	82	...
8	33	58	83	...
9	34	59	84	...
10	35	60	85	...
11	36	61	86	
...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...