

National Numeracy Learning Progression Numeracy Progression Appendices



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Appendix 1. The evidence base for development

While a wide range of literature was considered in the development of the National Numeracy Learning Progression, three references were of particular significance. These are as follows:

National Research Council 2001, Adding it up: Helping children learn mathematics, J Kilpatrick, J Swafford & B Findell (eds), Mathematics Learning Study Committee, Center for Education, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Academy Press, Washington, DC.

The evidence provided in Adding it up underpins the sequencing of the content of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. This National Research Council (USA) report describes what is known about how children learn to be numerate. It provides a synthesis of research with strong academic credentials, based on research that meets standards of relevance, soundness and generalisability (p. 23). Despite its publication date of 2001, it is still considered current and continues to be frequently cited.

In describing what is known about how children learn to be numerate, the report identifies that much more research has been conducted in the domain of number than in the development of spatial sense or data sense. Indeed, within the report, only one chapter is dedicated to research that meets the standards of the synthesis and that pertains to students' learning about space or helping students learn about data and chance. Extra comment on these areas was sought from those engaged in research in these emerging domains. Where research meeting the same standards of relevance, soundness and generalisability was not available, the Australian Curriculum was used to determine the initial sequencing of levels within the progression.

National Numeracy Review (Australia) & Stanley, GV & Council of Australian Governments Human Capital Working Group 2008, National Numeracy Review report, COAG, Canberra.

The National Numeracy Review report has also been influential to the learning progressions. It confirms that research associated with number sense holds a dominant position in the existing literature. It recognises that the balance of research was weighted towards primary education, especially the early years. It also notes, 'One of the striking features of the numeracy literature is the lack of creative research about the necessary, or possible, mathematical content most likely to support rich numeracy practices' (p. 10). This finding acknowledges the paucity of evidence about applications of numeracy across learning areas other than Mathematics.

XH Sun, B Kaur & J Novotná (eds) 2015, Conference proceedings of ICMI Study 23: Primary mathematics study on whole numbers, June 2015, Macau, China. www.umac.mo/fed/ICMI23/proceedings.html

To ensure the most up-to-date research was employed in the creation of the numeracy progression, research drawn from the twenty-third International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) 2015 study, titled 'Primary mathematics study on whole numbers', was used to supplement the comprehensive research synthesis in Adding it up.

Listings of the literature considered for the elements of the National Numeracy Learning Progression are provided in appendices 2–4.



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It is acknowledged that new evidence and research will emerge, perhaps through this project, that may challenge the sequencing of content in the Australian Curriculum. New evidence will be reported in ACARA's annual process for monitoring the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum, for consideration in future Australian Curriculum evaluations and reviews.

Appendix 2. Key references – Number sense and algebra

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Appendix 3. Key references – Measurement and geometry

Measurement

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Appendix 5. Numeracy experts consulted during development

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