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At the kindergarten - Intercultural awareness and understanding

ACTIVITY 3: NUMBER DETECTIVES

Objectives/ aims of activity (children will be able to):

- Understand that there are different scripts

Activity steps

- 1) The teacher asks the children to count from 1-5 in their home languages and write the numbers on the board for children to see.
- 2) The teacher briefly explains that people around the world write numbers in different ways and presents symbols from various scripts (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Devanagari, Roman, Ancient Greek)*. Children can mention differences between symbols (e.g. round vs square symbols).
- 3) The teacher shows children a mix of scripts and scribbles and asks them to identify authentic numbers/ symbols. This can be turned into a game. Children can name the scripts if they know them.
- 4) In groups, children can invent their own “secret” number symbols from 1-5 using different colours, shapes, and lines.

Resources needed to carry out the activity

- Flashcards with real numbers (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Devanagari, Roman)
<http://villemin.gerard.free.fr/Wwwgvm/Numerati/Langue.htm>
- Flashcards with scribbles

Approximative time indication for activity

Links to other activities:

- Link to COUNTING and HIDE AND SEEK (Plurilingual competence, Story 2, activity 3)

*It is important to choose writing systems that are easy to distinguish