



# Queuing

Talking about things in order



**Children enjoy** arranging objects in lines, straight or curved.

**Adults could** build on this by making a traffic jam on a road play mat in order to enable the activity described below.

## The Activity

Make a road block of your choice e.g. roadworks on a road layout play mat. With the children, make and talk about the single file traffic jams it has caused. Focus on positions and order.

## Encouraging mathematical thinking and reasoning:

### Describing

Which car is first in the queue? Which is second ...?

Which do you think is the smallest car in the queue? Which is the biggest/tallest?

### Reasoning

Is the first in the queue always at the front?

Is the last in the queue always at the back?

Is there a pattern to your queue? Why did you put this first?

Why did you put this next? Who's last? Why?

### Opening out

Can you put this lorry behind the yellow bus/in front of the tractor/between the pink van and the blue car?

Can you make a queue with all the . . . at the front and the . . . at the back?

What if we had more?

What if something was different?

What if you had another one the same?

Can you put them in some other order?

### Recording

Why don't you take a photo of your queue? You'll be able to talk about it at home.

# The Mathematical Journey

## Relative number size

- using mathematical language to describe length and number, such as bigger, smaller, the same and moving to more appropriate language such as longer, shorter, more people, less/fewer, equal

## Properties of shapes

- using mathematical language to describe shape, moving from informal such as wiggly, to more specific such as straight, curved

## Position and spatial properties

- using positional language to describe the place of objects such as in front of, behind, between

## Cardinality and counting

- using number names, one to one correspondence, knowing that the number in the queue is the last count
- conservation of number through spacing out objects in the queue and number remaining the same

## Adding and subtracting

- addition and subtraction by increasing or decreasing number of objects in the queue

## Multiplying and dividing

- noticing number within numbers, division by splitting queues into two or more

## Development and Variation

Large soft toys/small world people and animals/'sorting' resources; animals, mini-beasts, vehicles etc.

Picture cards

Beads or assorted hollow pasta shapes to thread

Assorted wooden building blocks which can become any imaginary creatures/vehicles/houses

Items to peg on a washing line

Encourage child-initiated queues through providing materials, inside and outside, for:

- a role play shop
- a play bus made from a line of chairs
- an 'ice cream van' – (children to make their own pretend ice creams)
- a card tunnel in a small world sand tray with cars
- a bridge over a narrow water play 'canal' with boats
- a water tray 'swimming pool' complete with diving board and small world people
- a narrow gap of cones to ride through on outdoor wheeled toys
- a play tunnel to crawl through
- using sticks, cones, leaves, flowers outside: floating ('Pooh stick' style) along a length of guttering, split bamboo or a safe stream

## Resources

Lots of different vehicles, including children's own junk models

