

# Lesson Plan: The Great Animal Rescue Line!

**Subject:** Early Math (Number Sense)

**Topic:** Introduction to "Before" Numbers (1-10)

**Age Group:** 5-Year-Old

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## Materials Needed:

- Painter's tape or chalk
  - Number cards or sticky notes with numbers 1-10 written on them
  - 5-10 small toy animals or figurines
  - A small box or basket to act as a "rescue boat"
  - Optional: A favorite snack with small pieces (e.g., crackers, berries, mini marshmallows)
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## Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Verbally identify the number that comes directly before a given number between 2 and 10.
  - Physically demonstrate the concept of "before" by moving backward one space on a number line.
  - Apply the concept of "before" to sequence objects in order.
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## Lesson Activities:

### 1. Warm-Up: Number Line Lily Pad Hop (10 minutes)

This activity gets the body moving and introduces the concept physically.

1. Use painter's tape (indoors) or chalk (outdoors) to create 10 squares or "lily pads" in a line on the floor.
2. Place a number card (1 through 10) in each square, in order.
3. **Instructions:** "Let's pretend you're a frog! I'm going to call out a lily pad number for you to jump to. Ready? Hop to lily pad number 5!"
4. Once the student is on the number, ask the key question: "Great hopping! Now, can you hop to the lily pad that comes right *before* number 5?"
5. Guide them to hop backward one space to number 4. Cheer for their success!
6. Repeat this process several times with different numbers (e.g., "Hop to 8. Now hop to the number *before* 8!"). Emphasize the backward movement for "before."

### 2. Main Activity: The Animal Rescue Line (15 minutes)

This activity uses storytelling and imagination to apply the concept in a fun, creative way.

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1. **Set the Scene:** "Oh no! These animals are stranded and need to get on the rescue boat! But they have to line up in the right order to be safe. Each animal has a secret number."
2. Line up the 10 number cards on the floor or a table.
3. Place one animal on a number card, for example, the pig on number 6.
4. **Instructions:** "The pig is in spot number 6 in the rescue line. The cow needs to get in the spot right *before* the pig. Which number spot should the cow go to?"
5. Help the student identify that the number before 6 is 5, and then let them place the cow on the number 5 card.
6. Continue the story with other animals. "Great! The sheep is next. It needs to get in line right *before* the cow. Where does the sheep go?" (Number 4).
7. Continue this process, building a backward sequence until you have a line of animals. Then, count forward from 1 to 10 to celebrate that all the animals are in the right order and ready for rescue! Let the student put them all in the "rescue boat" (the box).

### 3. Cool-Down & Application: Snack Time Countdown (5 minutes)

This is a tasty way to reinforce the lesson.

1. Line up 5-10 pieces of the snack.
2. Point to a snack in the line (e.g., the 4th cracker). "This is cracker number 4."
3. **Instruction:** "You can eat the cracker that comes right *before* number 4."
4. The student should pick up and eat the 3rd cracker.
5. Repeat a few times until the snack is gone or interest wanes.

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## Assessment (Informal Observation):

- Observe the student during the activities. Can they correctly identify the "before" number most of the time?
- Do they show understanding by moving backward on the number line?
- Can they apply the concept to place the animals or choose the correct snack? Note which numbers (e.g., smaller vs. larger) they are most comfortable with.

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## Differentiation and Inclusivity:

- **For Extra Support:** Begin by focusing only on numbers 1-5. Keep a complete, visible number line nearby at all times for the student to reference. You can also physically guide their hand or body in the first few attempts.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Ask more complex questions like, "The lion is at number 9. A tiny mouse is two spots *before* the lion. Where is the mouse?" Or, use numbers up to 20.
- **Inclusivity Note:** Use the student's favorite toys (cars, dolls, dinosaurs) instead of animals to personalize the lesson and maximize engagement. The story can be adapted to a "race car starting line" or a "castle parade."