Build It, Say It, Write It

Say It Three Ways

A child can look at 145 and read it straight out, one hundred forty-five, smooth as anything. But underneath those confident words, the number is sometimes still just "one-four-five" to them.

They can say it. They just can't see inside it yet. This mat closes that gap by taking a single number and turning it so the child can see it from three sides at once.

How to play

1. Write a number worth exploring, like 145, in the top box. Have your child build or draw it: one hundred, four tens, and five ones.
2. Then they say it out loud, one hundred forty-five, and write what it's made of: 100 + 40 + 5.
3. Point at each digit and ask what it's really worth. What is the 1 worth? The 4? The 5?

Watch for

If the child names the digits as "one, four, five," gently send them back to the blocks, and let the hundred, the four tens, and the five ones do the explaining that the bare digits can't.

Once the number feels steady

Ask what would happen if you added ten. A child who sees the structure won't start over. They'll know the hundred stays put, the ones stay put, and only the tens tick up by one.

Place Value

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Build It, Say It, Write It

My number

Build it or draw it

Hundreds	Tens	Ones

Say it: _____

Write what it's made of: _____ + _____ + _____

What if you add ten? _____

My number

Build it or draw it

Hundreds	Tens	Ones

Say it: _____

Write what it's made of: _____ + _____ + _____

What if you add ten? _____