Recognising numbers represented as dot patterns is an important step in developing number sense.

These flash cards can be held up for the children to view for just a quick glance (about a second). The children can say out aloud the number that was represented.

Afterwards the card could be looked at again and the children explain how they determined the number.

For example

The children would be shown this card for about a second (not long enough for them to count the dots individually).

“What number did you see?”

“I think it was ten”

“Why do you think it was ten?”

“Well I saw a nine and a one and that makes ten”

Next, show the child (ren) the card again to see if they are correct. Depending on the card (or the dot pattern), discuss any alternate ways that the number could have been worked out.