

# Car park Data

**Suzie Ashton**  
**Std 3/4 Primary School teacher**  
**18 Marsden Ave**  
**Mt Eden**  
**Auckland, New Zealand**

I was trying to find an original way of getting the children to collect data rather than the typical class survey on 'favourites'. I realised that in our school teacher's car park, we had a wealth of collectable data. The children and I went out and gathered information, using tally charts where appropriate, on the cars parked there. We used the following headings;

- Car make
- Car model
- Car colour
- First letter on license plate
- Total of the digits on the license plates
- Number of symbols on the license plate
- The range of the numbers on the license plate
- Month of registration
- Month of warrant of fitness
- etc.

There are many other investigations we could have done but these are examples of what is possible.

The children then brought their data back to the classroom and created a variety of bar graphs using the information. They also used the totalled license plate numbers to find the range, mean and mode for those plates. It was a very successful investigation and the children were motivated and interested.

---

Obtained from Math Central

<http://MathCentral.uregina.ca/>