

Topics: Pre-K and K
number recognition and
addition

Materials List

- ✓ File folders
- ✓ Sheet of white paper
- ✓ Die or spinner

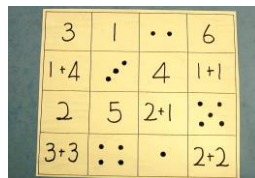
This activity can be used
to teach:

Common Core Math
Standards:

- Counting (Grade K,
Counting and
Cardinality, 1, 4)
- Write and compare
numbers (Grade K,
Counting and
Cardinality, 3, 7)
- Addition and
Subtraction (Grade K,
Operations and
Algebraic Thinking,
1, 2, 3, & 5)
- Problem Solving and
Reasoning
(Mathematical
Practices Grade K)

Cover the Number

A math game for preschool and kindergarten



In this game which is played with a die or spinner children practice number recognition and simple addition.

Assembly

1. Hand cut or die cut 16 4 cm (1½") circles from a file folder. (Die cuts available from RAFT)
2. On a sheet of white paper draw a 20 cm (8") square and divide it into a grid of 16 5 cm (1") squares. Attach it to a file folder.
3. In each square represent a number 1 through 6 by either writing the number or writing an addition sum or drawing dots to represent the number.

Playing the Game (for 2 players)

1. Each player takes 8 circles.
2. Players take turns rolling the die or using the spinner, then place a circle on the square representing the number indicated.
3. Play continues until all squares are covered or one player runs out of circles.

The Math Behind the Activity

Young children need opportunities to **apply** the logical-mathematical skills and knowledge they are acquiring. Playing developmentally appropriate games such as **Cover the Number** provides them with a hands-on experience to apply to their developing concepts. Playing this math-oriented game:

- Develops numerical thinking skills (counting, computing)
- Practices number recognition
- Develops problem-solving abilities
- Develops logical-thinking skills
- Encourages discussion and cooperative learning
- Provides experience in self-regulation and taking turns

Taking it Further

For a greater challenge make a grid of 25 squares. If more than 2 children play they can each have their own board.

Tips for Introducing Games to Young Children

1. Start with 2 players to introduce the game. Add more players as children come to know the rules and can wait to take turns.
2. Keep the game simple in the beginning, increasing the complexity as children master the concepts.
3. Encourage children to verbalize their moves. When they talk out loud to themselves it helps them to process the information.
4. Help children negotiate and modify rules or construct their own rules.
5. Develop ideas for making a rule about who goes first so that everyone gets a turn.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=116 for more resources!)