

**Topics:** Arithmetic,  
Problem Solving, and  
Probability

## Materials List

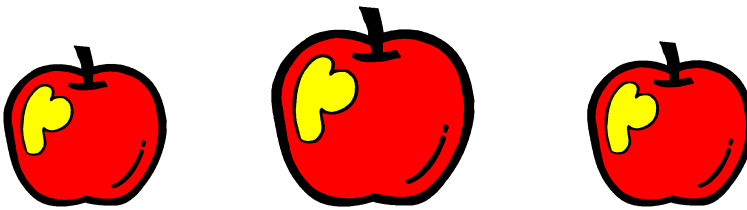
- ✓ 16 Cardstock,  
Mylar, or folders
- ✓ Optional: Poster  
board playing  
surface
- ✓ Permanent Marker

This activity can be used  
to teaching:  
Common Core Math  
Standards:

- Compare written  
numbers (Grade K,  
Counting and  
Cardinality, 7)
- Addition and  
Subtraction  
(Operations and  
Algebraic Thinking,  
Grade K, 1 & 5;  
Grade 1, 1, 2, 4-6)
- Classify objects  
(Grade K,  
Measurement and  
Data, 3)
- Problem Solving and  
Reasoning  
(Mathematical  
Practices Grades PK-  
3)

# Apple Match

A Concentration Game to Reinforce Simple Arithmetic



Apples make a wonderful, fall theme for pre-school or kindergarten classrooms. This game plays like Concentration: students turn over apples showing number equivalents to find and collect matching pairs.

## Assembly

1. Hand cut or die-cut 16 apples. (Die cut available at RAFT)
2. With permanent marker, create a “matching pair” of apples by writing a number on the back of 1 apple (i.e. – “4”) and a simple addition or subtraction problem on the other apple (i.e. – “ $3 + 1$ ”).
3. Continue with the remaining apples until there are 8 matching pairs.

## Playing the Game (for 2-4 of players)

1. Place all apples face down, so the numbers and equations are not displayed.
2. The first player will select two of the apples by turning them over. If the player turns over a matching pair, the player will collect the apples (removing them from play). This player will get another turn. If the player does not find a matching pair, his turn is over (all players should try to remember what is on the apples.) The apples will be turned back over and the next player will take a turn.
3. The game is over when players have matched and collected all the apples.
4. The winner is the student that has the most matching sets. Optional: Rather than having a “winner”, simply discuss and compare the apples collected. How many did each student get? “Let’s count them together”.

## The Math Behind the Activity

This activity will assist students in their concentration and memory skills, while having fun and practicing arithmetic.

## Taking it Further

To assist younger children in learning written numbers and reinforce number sense, write a number on the back of 1 apple and draw the corresponding number of “seeds” on another to create matching pairs. Or, write numbers and corresponding “number words.”

As another variation, teachers can create a larger number of matching pairs using whatever arithmetic skills the students might need practice.

Teachers can use similar Apple Match games to reinforce whatever subjects and topics are being studied at the time: capital and lower case letters, pictures and words; colors and “color words.”

**Web Resources** (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=281](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=281) for more resources!)

- Teacher designed math courses from the New Jersey Center for Teaching & Learning – <https://njctl.org/courses/math>