

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Counting, One-to-One Correspondence, Number Recognition, Cooperative Learning

Materials List

- ✓ File Folder
- ✓ Colored paper and or markers, colored pencils and/or fabric scraps
- ✓ craft foam, card stock or small objects
- ✓ Die or spinner
- ✓ Laminator (optional)

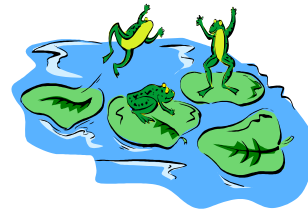
This activity can be used to teach:

- Counting (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Counting & Cardinality, 1, 4, 5)
- Cooperative learning



File Folder Count it Out

A math game for young learners.



In this cooperative game, children develop their numerical thinking skills by counting objects. They also practice number recognition as they use a spinner or die.

Assembly

1. Choose a theme for your game and create a “scene” in the folder to serve as the playing platform using colored pencils and/or cut paper or fabric e.g., a pond, a tree, grass, or seasonal theme.
2. Hand or die cut 20 or more small shapes using foam or paper or use real objects.
3. Laminate file folder and any paper pieces for durability, if desired.

Playing the Game (for 2 players)

1. Players count 20 small shapes or objects onto the file folder. Players can count with the teacher or by themselves.
2. Players take turns to spin or roll the die, removing the number of pieces indicated from the scene.
3. Play continues until there are no more pieces remaining.
4. The game can also be used by a single child in a math center

The Math Behind the Activity

Young children need opportunities to use the logical-mathematical skills they are acquiring. Playing developmentally appropriate games such as *File Folder Count it Out* provides them with a hands-on opportunity to do so. Encourage children to verbalize their moves. When they talk out loud to themselves it helps them to process the information. Participating cooperatively provides a non-threatening format that allows children to learn from each other and share the success.

Playing this math-oriented game:

- Develops numerical thinking skills e.g. counting
- Builds the foundation for understanding one-to-one correspondence
- 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, more objects can be used.
- Children learning simple addition can use 2 dice and add the numbers for the total number of objects to be removed from the scene.
- Help children negotiate and modify rules or construct their own rules.
- Count objects onto the scene as well as out.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=654 for more resources!)