

Count It Out

A Game for Young Mathematicians!



Materials Needed

- 8.5" x 11" cardstock or printer paper
- Pencils, pens, markers
- Small objects, 20+
- Die or spinner
- Optional: Laminator

Grade Range

Pre-K

Topics/Skills

Counting; One-to-One Correspondence; Number Recognition; Cooperative Learning

Learning Standards

Math: [Counting & Cardinality](#)

Duration

15-45 minutes

Prep Time

5-10 minutes

Students develop their numerical thinking skills and practice number recognition by counting objects and using a spinner or die in this 2-player cooperative game.

Activity Challenge

Count and remove an indicated number of objects to clear the board!

Preparation

1. Choose a theme for the game and create a scene on the paper to serve as the playing platform. Use pencils, colored pencils and/or markers to set the scene (e.g. pond, farm, candy store, game, etc.)
2. Collect 20+ small objects from around the house to act as play pieces (coins, action figures, toys, bottle caps, corks, jewelry, etc.)
3. If possible, laminate the paper (playing platform) for durability.

To Do

1. Players count 20 small shapes, or objects, onto the playing platform. Players can count aloud or silently to themselves.
2. Players take turns to spin or roll the die, and remove that number of pieces from the platform.
3. Play continues until there are no more pieces remaining.

Observations

- Count each object as it is removed from the scene.
- Count how many objects are left after some have been removed. Write the number of objects left on a piece of paper.
- Compare the two groups using the terms greater than, less than, or equal to.

Extensions

- 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 the rules or construct their own rules.
- Count objects onto the scene as well as counting removed objects.

The Content behind the Activity

Young children need opportunities to apply their logic and math skills, such as using number names, counting in sequence and counting to tell the number of objects. Playing developmentally appropriate games, such as *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 their success.