20's

Math Concepts: Single-digit multiplication & Division
Materials: None
Players: 2

Set up: Divide the class into pairs of students.

Play: In each pair, one person holds up some number of fingers from 2 to 10. After that, the other person holds up a number of fingers to multiply it by, and then says the product, which must be a number in the 20's. At that point they switch roles.

For example, suppose the first person holds up 7 fingers. Then the second person has the choice of holding up 3 or 4 fingers. If they hold up 3 fingers, then they say 21 and they are done.

Goal: Take a quick break from other activities and have some fun doing multiplication and division.

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Discuss what the smallest possible starting number is for a given range of answers.

Talk about why sometimes there is more than one choice for how many fingers the second person can hold up.

– VARIATIONS –

Number Range: Use other ranges of numbers, such as 10's, 30's, 40's, or 50's. If the number range changes, you will need to adjust the lower limit for the first person. For example, if you use 40's, the first person would need to pick a number from 4 to 10.