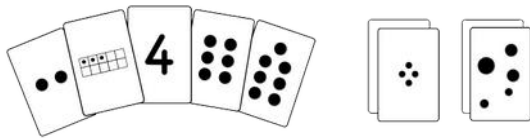


Count, Add, and Compare

— GO FISH — GAME

Remove cards above the highest number your child is comfortable with. If there are more than two players and you have restricted the numbers significantly, you may need to use several decks.

Start by dealing 5 cards to each player and put the remaining cards in a common draw pile. During a turn, a player “fishes” by asking any player if they have a card matching one of their cards – if they do, they hand over the card, and if they don’t, they say “Go Fish!” and the player must pick a card from the draw pile.



When a player has a pair of matching cards, those cards are placed in a “book” in front of them. The game is over after all the cards have been put into books. The player with the most books wins.

— FIG — GAME

Ready for some fun risk? During a turn, roll a die as many times as you want. When a roll is not 1, you add that roll to your turn’s total. If it is 1, you lose everything for that turn and the turn is over. A player may choose to stop before rolling a 1, keep the turn’s points so far, and add them to the player’s running total. The first player to reach the target number, say 30, wins.

A two dice variation has these rules: If neither die shows a 1, the sum is added to the turn’s running total. If exactly one of the dice shows a 1, then nothing more is added to the running total and the turn ends. If two 1’s are rolled, the turn’s total becomes 0 and the turn ends.

— I’M THINKING OF A NUMBER — GAME

There are two people involved. The Puzzler thinks of a number and the Questioner discovers the number. The Puzzler declares, “I am thinking of a number from 0 to 8” (or whatever upper limit they like). The

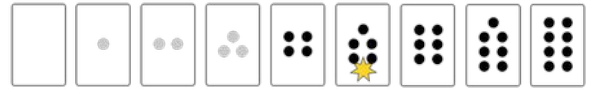
Questioner then asks questions of the form “How does your number compare to 3?” The Puzzler answers that the number is smaller, equal to, or larger than that number.

Here is an example of a game with a target of 5:

Puzzler: I’m thinking of a number from 0 to 8.

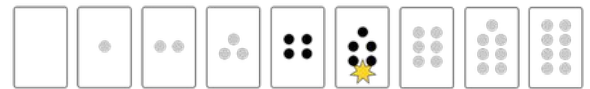
Question: How does your number compare to 3?

Puzzler: My number is larger than 3.



Question: How does your number compare to 6?

Puzzler: My number is smaller than 6.



Question: How does your number compare to 5?

Puzzler: Well done! My number is equal to 5.

With younger children, you can play this game with counting cards from 0 to 8 (or whatever the limits are) placed face up in order on the table. Under one of the cards you hide a star or whatever is fun. After each guess, the child (Questioner) turns over all the cards that have been eliminated until the star is discovered.

— WHICH NUMBER AM I — ACTIVITY

Depending on how many children are playing, there are two ways to play this.

Adult with two children: Each child draws a card and places it on their forehead facing out without seeing it. You announce the sum of the cards and the children are challenged to figure out their own card by looking at the other child’s card.

Adult with one child: Create several pairs of cards in advance where each pair of cards has the same total known to all. The unused cards are moved to the side. Pick up one random pair of cards, place the cards on your foreheads, and figure out each card by looking at the other person’s card.