

**Unit Name/Theme:** Ring Toss/Math

**What are we doing?** We will be working on counting and recognizing number sets! Children will explore and count objects by tossing a determined number of objects into a circle and counting how many went inside the circle and how many outside.

**Purpose/Why?** This activity will work on building number sense and constructing and deconstructing numbers up to 10. These are early math skills that children need to know when they start kindergarten. (*Characteristics of Children Entering Kindergarten – WaKIDS*)

**Materials**

**Provided:** Counting bears, counting cubes, small ring

**You will need to provide:** Yarn to make a circle

**Books:**

“Count 1, 2, 3, on the Subway by Paul Dubois Jacobs

“Counting Crows” by Kathi Appelt

“Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed” by Eileen Christelow



**Quick Start**

Give children time to explore the objects by counting, sorting, stacking, etc... For the game, start with 5 items. Set up the ring or yarn circle for the toss. Demonstrate a gentle toss toward the ring. Then count how many went inside the ring, how many outside? Which has more, which has less? Keep playing and notice the many arrangements of 5. The goal is for the child to begin to recognize that 3 went inside the ring and 2 landed outside the ring *without counting!* This is called “subitizing”! (Seeing small groups of items and recognizing the number without counting.) This may take some practice and gives lots of opportunities for counting and 1:1 correspondence (touching each item as they count.)

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### Deeper Dive

Once the child has mastered 5, move on to 10 items. Repeat the same procedure. With 10 items, you may also have “equal” or the same amount, inside and out. Practice until the child begins to recognize groups of items up to 10. Children can also begin to “graph” the different arrangements that they toss, using numerals or slash marks. Do they begin to notice patterns? How many times does the same number fall inside and outside? The goal is to begin to recognize all the combinations of number that equal 10. This is actually beginning addition and subtraction!



### Ask a Question

- How many fell inside the circle?
- How many fell outside the circle?
- How many do you think will fall inside”?
- What patterns do you notice?



### Vocabulary Builder

Prediction, More, Less, Equal, Subitize, Inside, Outside, Addition, Subtraction Patterns

### Other Activities:

What other collections do you have or can you make? Sort and count collections that you have or create. Some suggestions would be rocks, shells, blocks, buttons...) Use classification skills to sort in a different way. Which collection has more? Which collection has less?