

Unit Name: Tiny Polka Dot Math

What are we doing? Children will gain experience with numbers and numerals as they play a variety of math card games.

Purpose/Why? WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines and Learning Pathways in Numeracy

1. Children begin to identify by sight how many are in a small group of items, up three (without counting).
2. Children will find the total sum of small groups of items.
3. Children will practice counting to 10 and count up to five items. Points to objects while counting.
4. Instantly recognizes and names the number of items in a set of three to five.
5. Uses comparative language (more, less, same) to compare collections up to 10 by counting (age 4-5)

Materials:

Provided:

Tiny Polka Dot Game

11 cards in 6 different suits (total of 66 cards)

8 Double-sided game idea cards

Instructions

Guide for Grownups

You Will Need to Provide:

Nothing!

Books:

One Yellow Sun by Michael Arndt

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

Ten on a Twig by Lo Cole



Quick Start: Explore

Allow your child some time to explore the Tiny Polka Dot cards. This is just a time for your child to handle and look closely at the cards. Observe how your child interacts with the cards.



Questions to ask:

- What do you notice about the cards?
- How are the cards the same and how are they different?
- After selecting two cards ask, "How are these two cards the same? How are they different?"
- How can you sort them?



Vocabulary Builder

In your discussion with the children use such words as:

- Number names, including zero
- More and less
- Same, match, and equal
- How many? How do you know?



Quick Start: Play a simple game

Find an age appropriate game on the 8 Double-sided game idea cards. A fun one to start with is a matching game. Use 2 (or more) suits of cards with the numbers 1-3, 1-5, or 0-10, depending on your child's age and ability. It's better to start off simpler and move to more complex.

Play the same game but with different (or more) suits or numbers. Try another game from the game idea cards.



Deeper Dive: More Games

Play a traditional card game such as War, Slapjack, Snap, or Go Fish with Tiny Polka Dot Cards.

Encourage your child to make up their own game(s) using the Tiny Polka Dot cards.

Garbage

Game for 2 player

Goal: Create a line of cards from 1-10 in the correct order.

Mix 3-4 decks together (leaving out the zeroes). Deal 10 card to each player and then arrange them in front of the player in two rows of 5 cards face down. Place the remaining cards to the side where both players can reach.

The first player draws a card. Let's say it's a 6. The player counts to the sixth card, removes the card that is facedown and places the 6 face up. The player then looks at the card they picked up, can it be placed in the correct spot? If the card was a 2 the player would count to the second place, pick up the card and place the 2 face up. If the card they picked up can be placed put it in the correct location and continue play, if not put it in the "garbage pile" and their turn ends.

Play continues until one of the players has 1-10 cards face up in order.



Deeper Dive: Make your own cards

Using index cards help your child make their own sets of Tiny Polka Dot Cards. The first two sets could be numeral cards and dot cards 1-10. Play games using the homemade set!



Questions to ask:

- How are your cards the same as the Tiny Polka Dot cards? How are they different?
- How else can you show numbers 1-10 besides dots?
- Can you put the cards in order 1-10?