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LER 1578
Ages 3+

Numbers

**PUZZLE
CARDS**



Activity Guide

Set of 20, self-checking puzzles.

Use these puzzle cards with real photo images to reinforce:

- number recognition
- counting

The Numbers Puzzle Cards are designed for young children as a way to introduce numbers and how to count. Putting a number together with pictures helps children identify numbers and develop counting skills. Be sure to introduce children to the layout of the cards so they can successfully complete the activities. Make sure you show each number and count the number of pictures out loud. Have children repeat the numbers back to you. Before you begin, carefully separate each card into two pieces.

1-2-3

Place the number cards (bottom parts of cards) face up on the table. Show children the top half of one card and help them count the number of items pictured. Next, ask children to find the bottom part of the card with the corresponding number. If the bottom and top parts fit together, they have the correct answer! If there are several items pictured on a card (for example, cards numbered 8-20), encourage children to count by rows.

Going Up

Help children arrange the puzzle cards in numerical order. Depending on the age of the child, you may want to start with numbers 1 to 10 and build to 20. Encourage numeral recognition by asking children to point to each number as they count out loud.

Once Upon a Time...

Encourage children to tell "number" stories using the puzzle cards. Place the puzzle cards in numerical order face up on a table. Start by saying the first sentence or two. Then, ask children to take turns adding to the story. For example, "There was one house on the top of the hill. There were two big trees in the backyard." Try making the stories as silly as possible!

More or Less

Pick two picture cards (top parts), one with a few items pictured and one with many items pictured; for example, 3 pigs and 12 birds. Place them face up on the table. Ask children, "Are there more pigs or birds?" Have children count to determine if they estimated correctly. Repeat this game with two new cards. Use the words "more" and "fewer" when comparing the cards.

All Around

Have children choose a puzzle card and count the items pictured on the top of the card. Then ask children to look around the room and find the same number of some object, for example, 4 pillows or 2 curtains. Repeat this game with another puzzle card.