

# Number Bean Bags

Toss and learn number fun!

EI-3047  
Ages 3+  
Grades Pre-K+

**Number Bean Bags are a fun, active way to encourage young learners' beginning math skills, from number identification to counting, even simple addition and subtraction. Here are several game ideas to get you started.**

## **Toss and Say**

Divide children into pairs or small groups. Give each team a pile of bean bags. Depending on the age and ability of your students, have children stand from three to six (or more) feet from one another. Have the children take turns tossing the bean bags to one another, identifying them on each toss. **Variation:** As a large group activity, have children toss and say the bean bags in numerical order.

## **Number Line Toss**

Place the bean bags on the ground in numerical order, leaving spaces for some "missing" numbers. For example, set out 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, and so on. Have children choose the missing numbers and toss them into the correct position on the number line.

## **Number Relay**

Divide the bean bags into two equal piles, one for the numbers 1 to 10 and one for the numbers 11 to 20. Place the bean bags in two large shoeboxes or other containers at the start of the race. Place two empty containers at the end of the race. Divide your class into two teams. Have the first child in each team find the bean bag with the team's assigned first number on it (1 or 11). As soon as the child finds the number, he balances it on his head, hand, shoulder, or other chosen body part, walks quickly to the empty container, deposits his bean bag in the correct order, and runs back to the starting point. The next child finds the next number in the sequence, balances it, races to the container, and so on. The winning team is the one that finishes first, with the numbers in the correct order.

## **Number Toss**

Make a giant number game board from a plastic shower curtain or tablecloth. Draw grid lines with a permanent marker, dividing the game board into 20 sections. Cut out pictures from magazines, use stickers, or have children draw sets of objects or animals for each number from 1 to 20 on large index cards. Tape the pictures to the game board. Have children take turns tossing the bean bags onto the pictures with the matching number of objects. **Note:** Begin by taping the pictures in numerical order. Older or more experienced children will enjoy the challenge of the pictures being placed on the game board in random order.

## **Name That Number**

Draw ten large number circles on the ground. Label each circle with a number word from one to ten. Set out the bean bags, number side up. Have children toss the appropriate bean bags into the circles. Afterwards, they can turn the bean bags over to check their tosses. When children have mastered the number words from one to ten, try the number words from eleven to twenty.

**Variation:** Label the circles with the numbers 1 to 10 and set out the bean bags, number word side up.

## **Toss and Add**

Write addition facts (with sums 20 or less) on index cards, such as  $3 + 4$ ,  $9 + 8$ ,  $10 + 2$ , and so on. Mix up the deck of cards. Children take turns choosing a card and then throwing the bean bags for the facts and their solution into a large laundry basket, calling out the facts as they go into the basket, for example, "Three plus four equals seven." For younger, or more inexperienced children, you can print the answers on the other side of the cards.

**Variation:** Play the game using subtraction facts.

## **Bean Bag Addition Fun**

Draw an "addition circle" for children to toss the bean bags into. Label the circle with a number, such as 10. Have children choose two bean bags whose sum is 10, such as 4 and 6, 2 and 8, and so on. Have children take turns tossing the bags into the number circle calling out the numbers for each toss, for example, "Eight plus two equals ten."

**Variation:** Try the same game with a "subtraction circle."

**For more active toss and learn fun, look for these additional bean bag sets:**

EI-3045 Alphabet Bean Bags  
EI-3046 Colors Bean Bags  
EI-3048 Shapes Bean Bags



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