

Winner Takes All

2 players

Shuffle each set of the 0 to 20 Secret Number cards. Deal them out face down to each player. Both players place their cards in a stack in front of them. At the same time, each player turns over his or her top card and places it in the center of the table so that the two cards are side by side. Whoever has the larger number takes both cards and adds them, face down, to the bottom of his or her stack. Play proceeds in this way until both players turn over a card with the same number. Next, each player places one card face down, then another card face up, on top of his or her turned up card. The larger face-up card wins all six cards. The players must repeat the sequence if the top cards match again. The player who collects all the cards is the winner.

Variation

The player with the smaller number card wins the round.

Skill: Players compare number values.

Double-Digit Duo

2 players

Shuffle two sets of the 0 to 9 Secret Number cards. Deal the cards in stacks face down in front of each player. The first player turns over her top two cards and arranges them to make the largest number possible. For example, the cards 3 and 5 should be arranged as 53 rather than as 35. Next, her opponent turns over his or her top two cards and tries to represent the largest number possible. The player who arranges his or her cards to make the largest two-digit number takes all four cards. Play continues until all the cards are gone. The player with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

Variation

Players try to make the smallest two-digit number possible.

Skill: Players make two-digit place value comparisons.



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Ages 3-7 / Grades Pre-K to 2

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Numbers Count™

Learning Goal

Numbers Count develops players' beginning math skills.

Contents

- 44 puzzle pieces
- 42 Secret Number cards (2 sets: 0 to 20)
- 21 English/Spanish word cards
- 2 pointer arrows

Let's Play

Number Line Warm Up

Encourage players to count out loud as they connect the numbers to create the number line. Seeing numbers and hearing number names reinforces memory. Next, have players connect objects to corresponding number pieces. Matching sets to numbers encourages players to grasp the concept of one-to-one correspondence. You can also have players place the word cards below the numbers on the number line. (Note: Begin with reinforcing the numbers 0 to 10. As players' skills grow, introduce the numbers 10 to 20.)

Reinforce the language of math with number line play:

- Start at 4 and **count on** to 10. Repeat this activity by changing the starting and ending numbers.
- Point to the number line and **count backwards** starting at different numbers on the line.
- Ask players what number comes **after** or **before** another number.
- Use the number line to introduce the concepts of addition and subtraction. For example, name the number that is three **less than** 8. Name the number that is two **more than** 6.

Secret Target

2 players

Each player connects his own number line from 0 to 10. Next, stack one set of the 0 to 10 Secret Number cards in the center of the table. The first player flips over a Secret Number card without showing his opponent. His opponent has three chances to guess the number on the card and eliminate all the other numbers on the number line that are too large or too small. For example, if the Secret Number is five and the opponent guesses six, the first player says, “too large.” His opponent takes one pointer arrow and covers the six which eliminates the number six and all numbers larger than six on the number line. If the next guess is four, and the first player says, “too small,” then his opponent uses the other arrow to cover the four which eliminates the number four and all numbers less than four on the number line. If the opponent correctly guesses five on his last turn, he takes the Secret Number card. If he does not guess the Secret Number within three guesses, the first player places the Secret Number card at the bottom of the stack and takes his turn at guessing a Secret Number. When there are no remaining Secret Number cards, the player with the most Secret Number cards is the winner.

Variation

Play with the 10 to 20 number line and Secret Number cards as players' skills progress.

Skill: Players formulate questions, compare numbers, and problem solve.



Clap and Count

2-4 players

Place one set of the 1 to 20 Secret Number cards face down in the center of the table. The first player chooses a Secret Number card without showing it to the other players. Next, the player claps her hands the number of times shown on the Secret Number card. For example, if the number is four, she must clap four times. The first player to guess the Secret Number correctly, claims it and takes a turn at choosing a Secret Number card. Play continues in this way until all the cards have been claimed. The player with the most Secret Number cards at the end of the game is the winner!

Skill: The physical action of clapping helps make numbers more meaningful.

Number Concentration

2-4 players

Choose any nine pairs of matching Secret Number cards for this game. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in three rows of six. The first player chooses a card and turns it over to name a Secret Number. Next, the player turns over another card, trying to find the matching Secret Number. Encourage players to say their numbers out loud. If the player is successful, he takes the matching pair and goes again. If he is unable to make a match, he returns both cards face down and it is the next player's turn. The player with the most cards when the game is over wins.

Variation

Try matching the English/Spanish word cards to the Secret Number cards.

Skill: Players learn to associate written symbols with word names and improve their memory.

Number Detective

2 players

Sequence one set of Secret Number cards from 0 to 10. The first player closes her eyes while her opponent hides one card behind his back and moves the remaining cards closer together to fill the empty space. Next, the first player must guess which number is missing. If she answers correctly, she scores a point. Her opponent then returns the card to its place and takes a turn. The player who scores 10 points first is the winner.

Variation

Play the game with the Secret Number cards from 0 to 20. Try hiding two, three, or four cards! You can also change the sequence of the cards and have players take turns correctly sequencing the Secret Number cards.

Skill: Players reinforce their understanding of number sequence.

