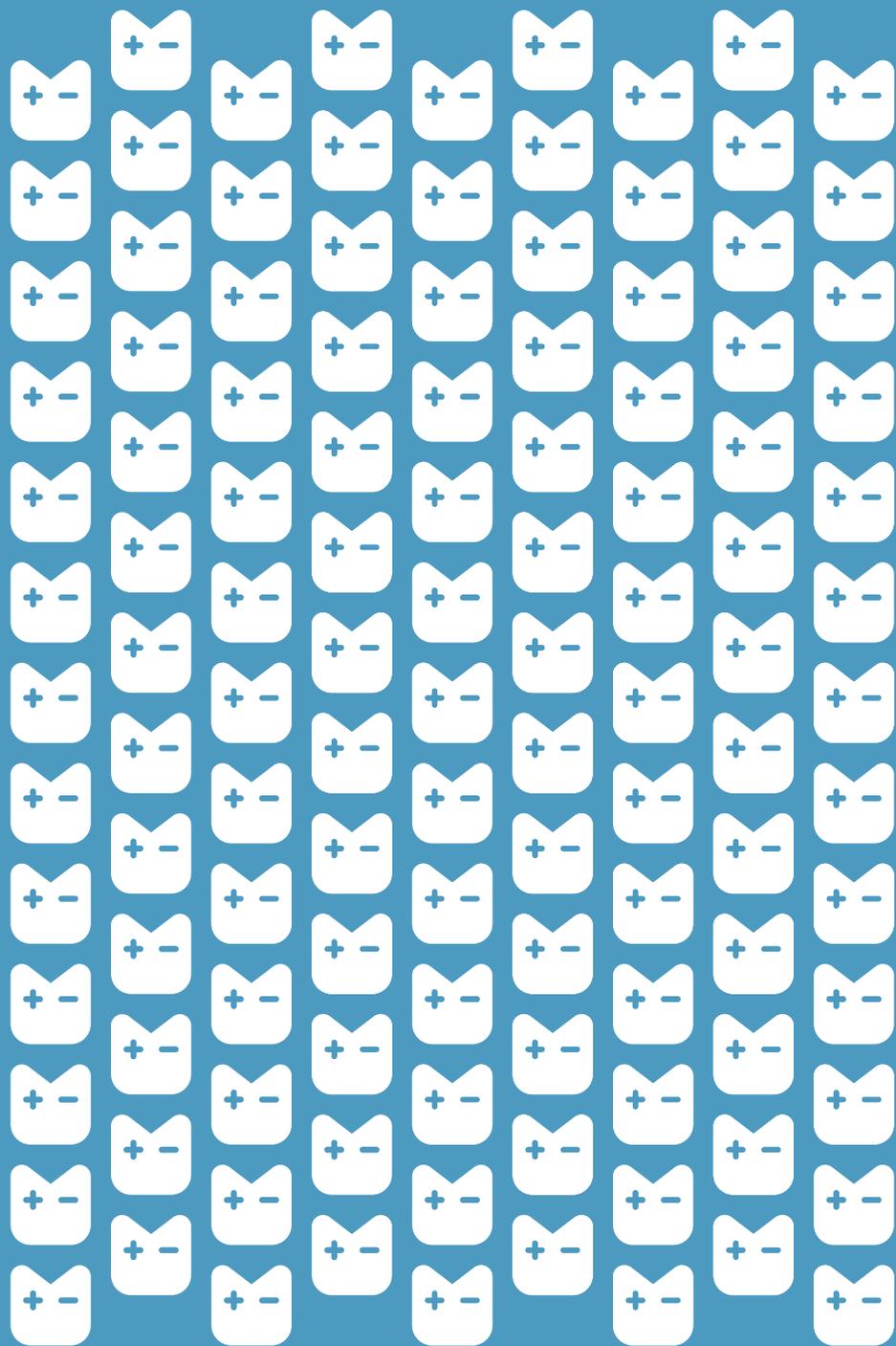


Do the Math: It Adds up!





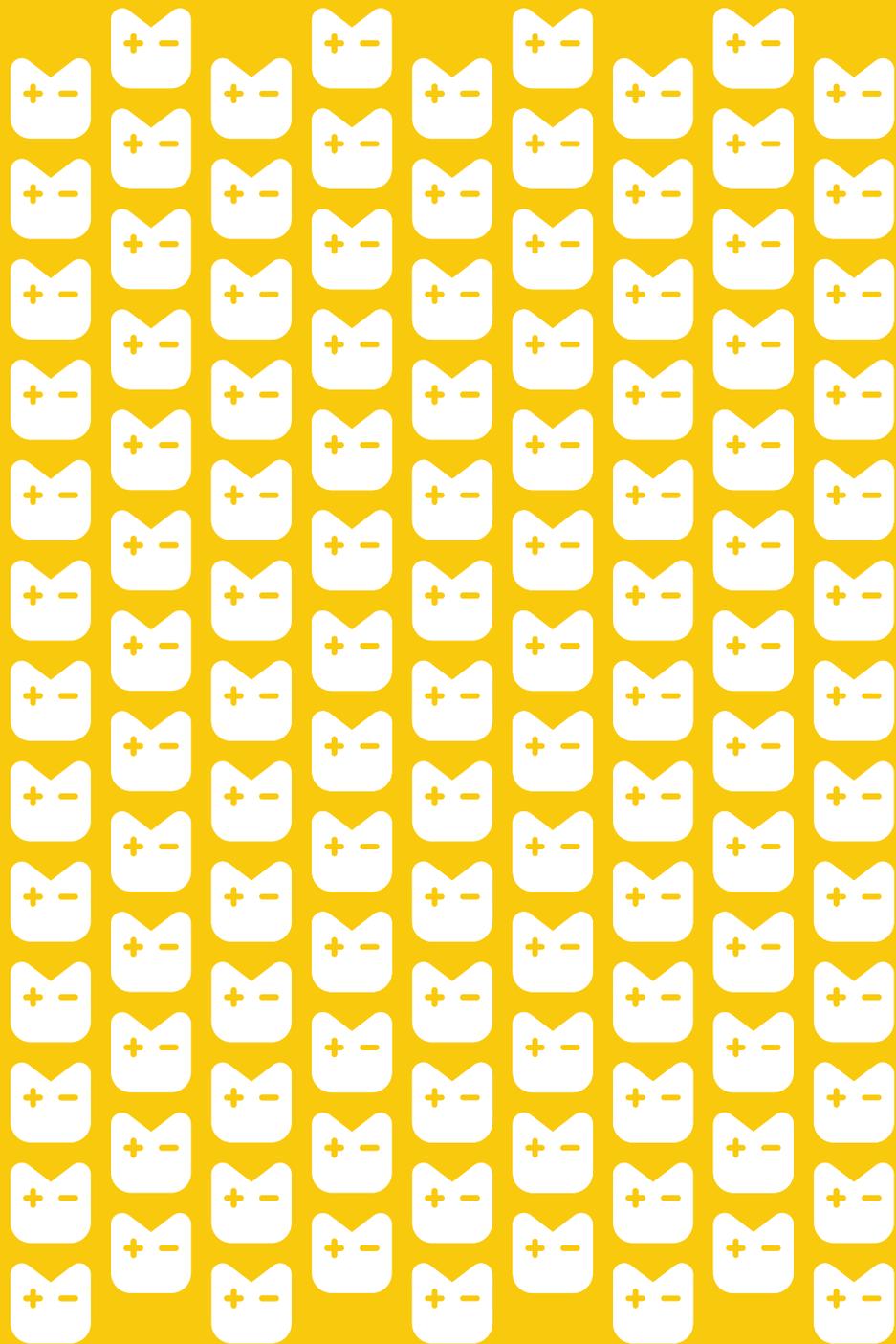
Early math is much more than counting!

Early math is much more than counting! Before kindergarten your child can learn to pick out numbers up to ten, count to 20 or even higher, see and pick out patterns of objects, and know the ideas of more and less and bigger and smaller. With these skills your child will be ready to succeed in school.

You are your child's best math teacher. Even if you did not like math in school, you have all it takes to get your child ready for kindergarten math.

These M-PACT Activity Cards give you lots of ideas for things you can do with your child to build math skills.

Make math a part of everyday and day by day your child will build the foundation for success. Do a math activity with your child every day because when you do the math—it adds up!



How to use these cards

- Each card has an activity to do with your child that will help develop math skills.
- Most activities include a harder version. Do the harder version when your child has gotten good at the activity.
- Many cards have tips on how to do the activity or tips on how to help your child learn math.
- These pictures tell you what math skill your child will learn from the activity:



Counting and picking out numbers



Knowing more and less of something & bigger and smaller numbers



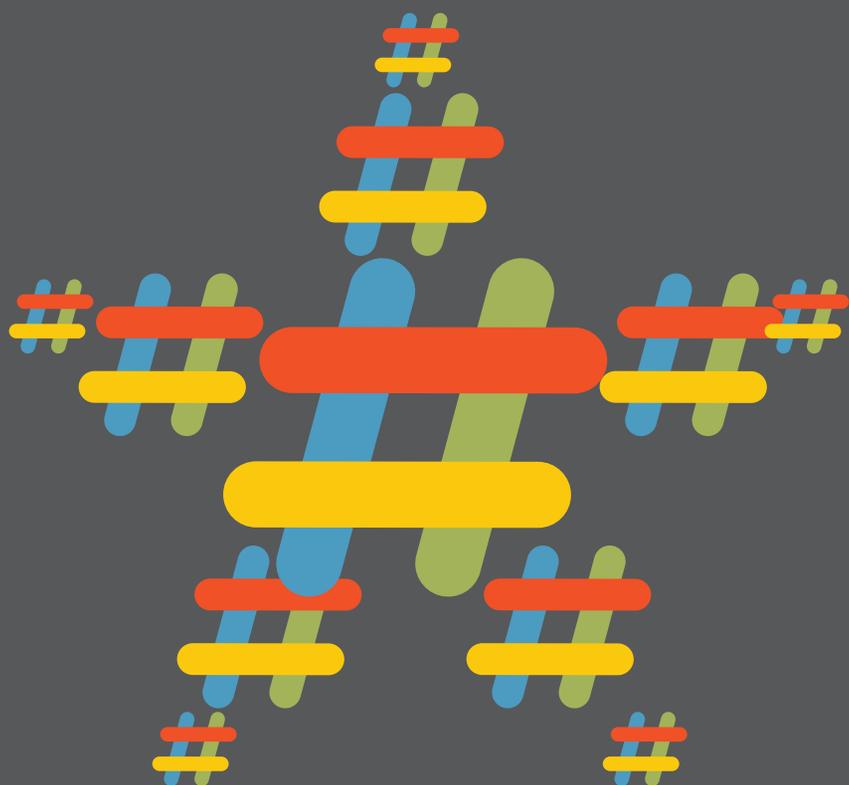
Add and subtract



Number recognition



Seeing Patterns



+ Tip

Keep the pieces of paper with the numbers and play the game another time. Play the game many times until each piece of paper has many stars. Ask your child to count the stars on each paper. Ask which paper has the most stars.

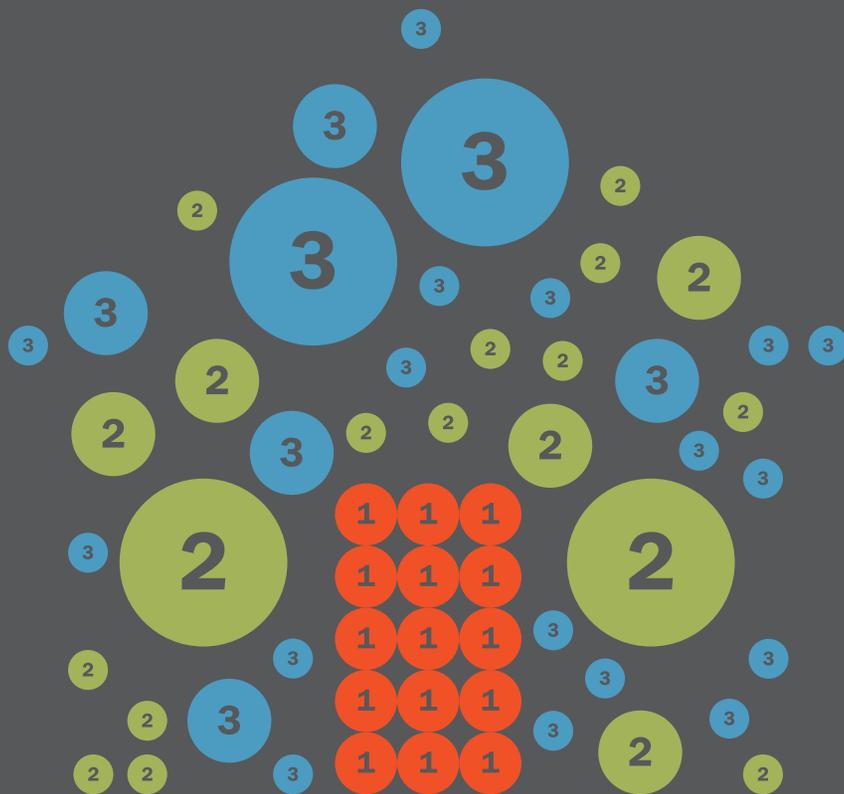
▲ Make it Harder

Write the numbers from 11 to 20 on pieces of paper and play the same game.

I am a Star!



- Write numbers from 1 to 10 on separate sheets of paper. Line up the papers from 1 to 10.
- Say a number and ask your child to point to the paper with that number.
- When she points to the right number, draw a star on that paper.
- Keep going until there is at least one star on each paper.



+ Tip

Even if you are not a “number person” you are good enough with numbers to get your child ready for kindergarten math. You can do it!

I can count!



- Tell your child, “Our house has so many things to count. Let’s count them!”
- Show your child something and ask her to count how many of these are in your house. For example, “This is a door. How many doors are in our house?”
- Repeat with other household items. For example, windows or spoons.



+ Tip

Let your child have the pile with the most animals sometimes.

▲ Make it Harder

After your child answers the question “Who has more?”, take some animals out of your pile. Ask again “Who has more?” and have your child tell you the answer.

Clap the most

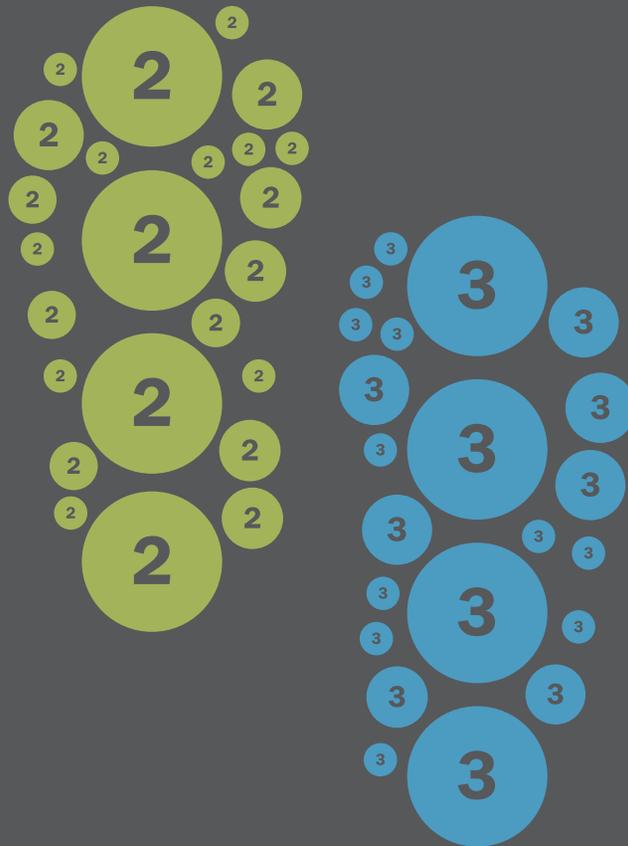


- Put the M-PACT farm animals in a pile between you and your child.
- Ask your child to take 2 animals. You take 5 animals.
- Ask your child, “Who has more? “When your child gets the right answer, say, “We are going to Clap the Most!” Clap five times, once for each object in the pile with the most animals.
- Put all the objects back in the middle and repeat with different numbers. Clap once for each number in the largest pile.



Silly Steps

- Say to your child, “Take 5 baby steps.”
- As the child takes each step, have him count the steps with you. “1, 2, 3, 4, 5!”
- Repeat this game with different kinds of steps and numbers. For example: “Take 4 hops.”
Or take 6 giant steps, 3 backwards steps, 7 side steps and so on.

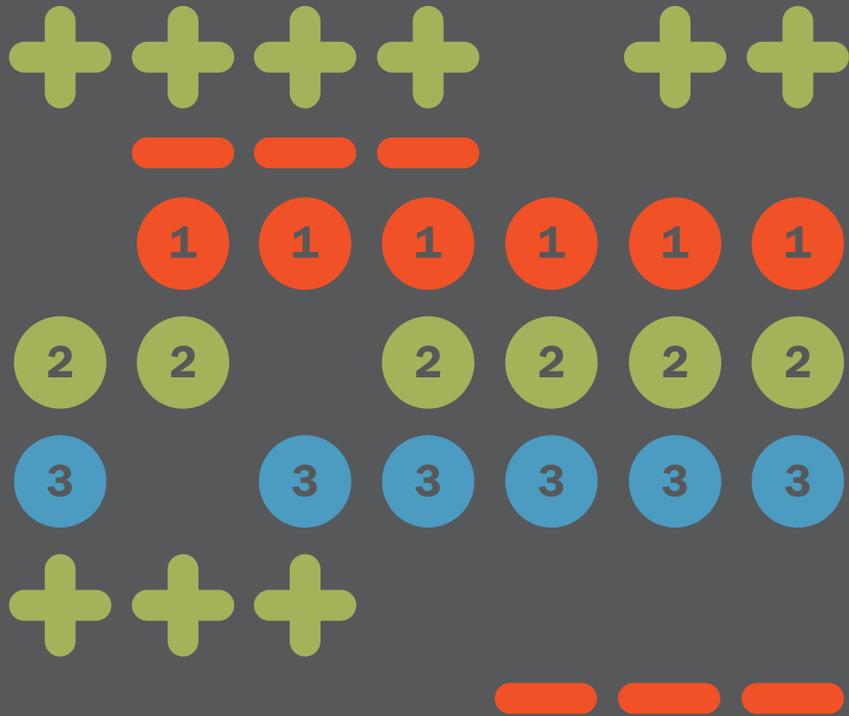


+ Tip

Make sure to count the steps with your child. Ask your child to move slowly so she can count each step. Let your child say silly steps for you to take while you both count.

▲ Make it Harder

Have your child take 2 kinds of steps and ask them how many steps she took all together. For example: “Take 2 baby steps and 3 giant steps. How many steps is that? Let’s count them together!”



+ Tip

If you use bigger numbers and you do not want your child to eat too many treats, ask your child to share with you or another child.

▲ Make it Harder

Try subtraction. For example, have your child take 8 treats and then ask him to give you 3. Have him count how many are left. Say, "You had 8 and you shared 3. Let's count how many you have left. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!"

Yummy math



Treat your child by doing math with Cheerios, M&Ms or other small treats. The possibilities are almost endless.

- Put a small pile of Skittles, Cheerios another kind of small treat in front of your child. Ask your child to take 3 and set those aside.
- Now ask your child to take 3 more and add these to the 3 he set aside. Ask: "How many do you have now? "
- After your child answers, say: "You had 3 and you took 3 more and now you have 6. You can eat all 6!"
- Repeat this game with other numbers. For example: ask your child to take 2 and then take 5 more.



+ Tip

Ask your child questions that encourage her to use terms like “more than” and “less than” or “bigger” and “smaller”. For example: “Is the pot bigger or smaller than the spoon?”

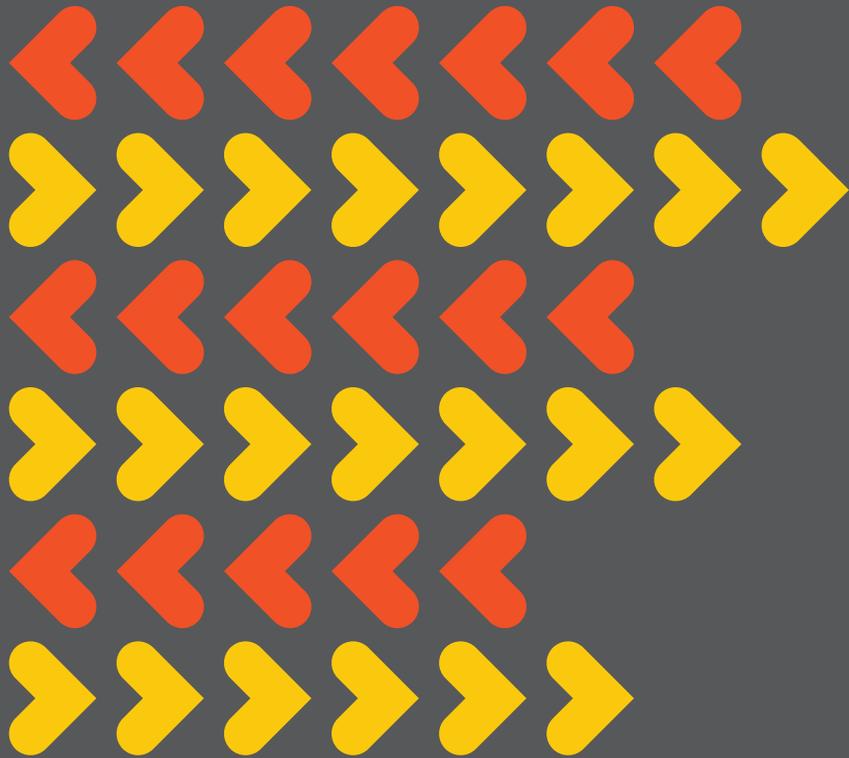
▲ Make it Harder

Begin with objects that are very different in size. Then use objects that are closer in size.

Sort of



- Choose 3 objects from around your kitchen that are different sizes. For example, a pot, a spoon, and a cup.
- Ask your child to line up the objects from the smallest to the largest.
- Repeat this game with objects from other rooms in the house. For example, find objects in the closet like a shoe, a shirt, and a hanger.



+ Tip

Your child will learn to love math if you make math a part of playtime every day.

Line Them Up!



- Have your child line up M-PACT farm animals in rows so that the first row has 1 animal, the second has 2 animals and so on until you use all the animals.
- Ask your child: “Which row is longer, the first or the second?” Then have your child count the animals in each line, telling her that “Yes, 2 is more than 1.” Teach your child that longer lines go with bigger numbers.



+ Tip

It is okay if your child colors outside the lines of the circles.

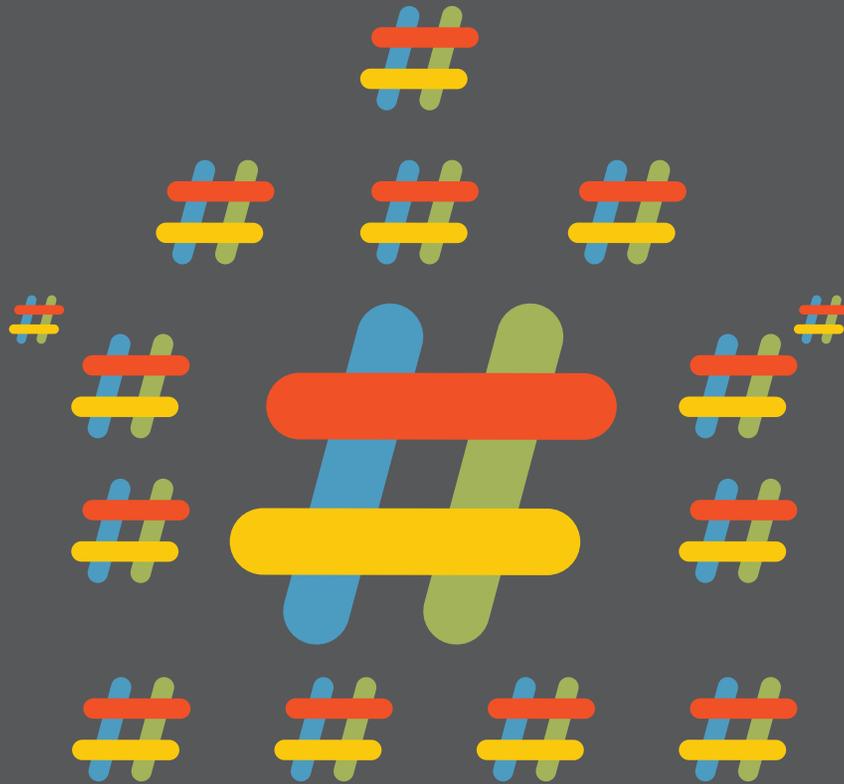
▲ Make it Harder

Number the squares 1 to 10.

Caterpillar Coloring!



- On a piece of paper like a paper grocery bag draw a caterpillar with a lot of circles (flip the card to see an example). Using another piece of paper, cut 5 small squares. Write the numbers 1 to 5 on each of the squares.
- Turn the squares over. Have your child pick a square and say the number on the square out loud.
- Have your child color in that number of circles on the caterpillar. For example, if the child picks a paper with the number 3, have him color in 3 circles.
- Repeat this until all the caterpillar circles have all been colored in.



+ Tip

To make the game more fun tell your child that if she can count the number of Cheerios or other small treats that is the same as the number on the card she can have the treat.

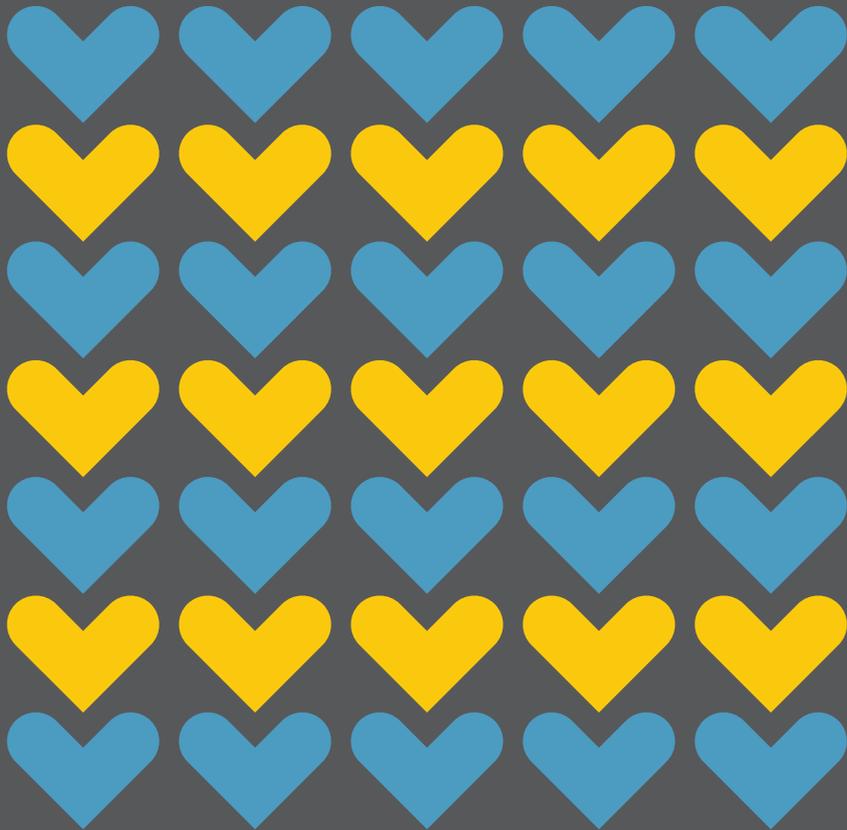
▲ Make it Harder

Use number 1 to 10.

Number Hide and Seek



- Cut a piece of paper into rectangles about the size of a playing card. Write a number from 1 to 5 on each card.
- Hide the numbers in different places in your home.
- Ask the child to find the number 1, then the number 2 and so on until all the numbers are found.



+ Tip

Recognizing patterns is an important early math skill. Help your child find patterns in your home or on the way to school. For example, a tiled floor may have a color pattern.

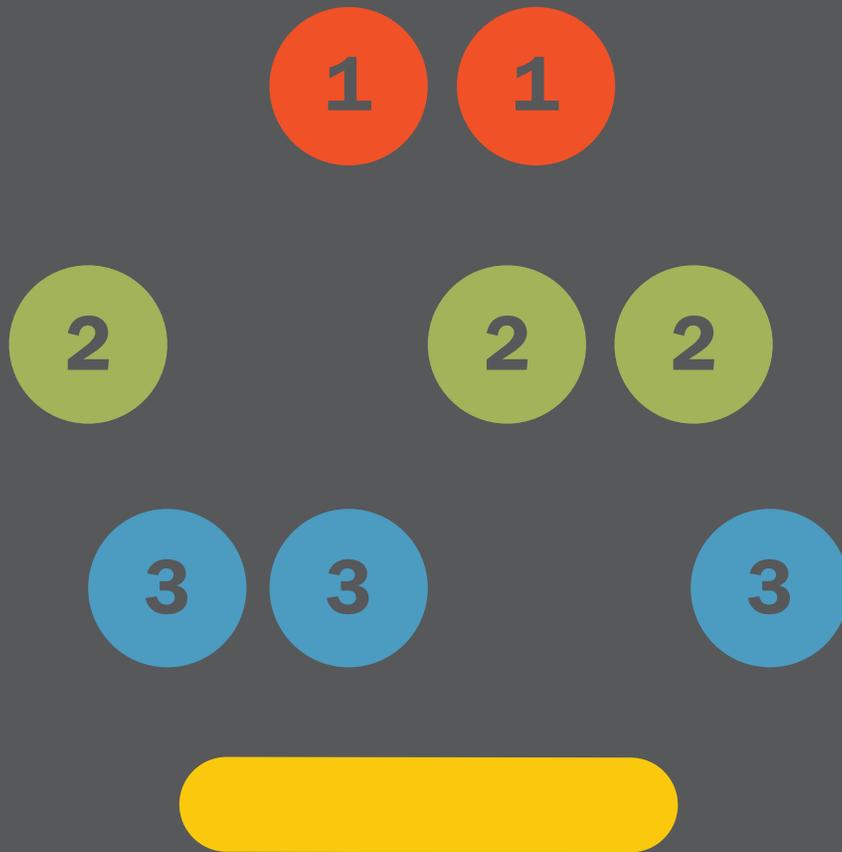
▲ Make it Harder

Make harder patterns. For example: clap, stomp, snap, jump; clap, stomp, snap, jump.

Make A Pattern!



- Tell your child: “A pattern is something that repeats. Let me show you a pattern!”
- Clap your hands once, then stomp your foot once, while saying the words “clap, stomp.” Repeat this several times.
- Clap and ask your child what comes next. Ask your child to do the pattern with you.
- Repeat this game with another pattern. For example, clap your hands, then touch your head, while saying the words “clap, head, clap, head.”



+ Tip

Have your child tap each ball as she counts them.

▲ Make it Harder

Use different colors of paper to make balls and have your child count by color. Ask: “How many red balls did you get over the line? How many blue balls? How many all together?”

Old Ball Game



- Make balls out of wadded up newspaper or magazines.
- Put a strip of paper on the floor a couple feet away from your child. Have your child try to throw the balls past the strip of paper.
- Count the number of balls the child gets past the strip of paper and the number that do not make it past the paper.