

Numbers and Quantities

The ten digits on one side, the ten quantities on the other, to be matched. A number becomes something your child holds in their hand before it is a symbol.

3-6 years

Early Math

2 sheets to cut out

Heavy paper recommended

What your child practices

A written digit says nothing about the quantity it stands for. By placing the symbol and the set of dots side by side, your child connects the two on their own. The dots are arranged in pairs: when one is left over at the bottom, the number is odd, and that shows without needing to be explained.

Prepare the material

1. Print the two material sheets on heavy paper.
2. Cut out the ten digits, then the ten dot cards.
3. Start with the numbers 1 through 5 only. Add the rest once those feel secure.

Show once, then step back

1. Line up the digits 1 through 5 in order, left to right.
2. Take the one-dot card and set it under the 1, without saying anything.
3. Do the same with two dots, counting quietly and touching each dot.
4. Shuffle the remaining cards and hand them to your child.
5. Watch. Don't count for them, don't fix a placement.

The built-in control of error. In the end, every digit should have its card, and none should be left over. If one is left, your child knows a match is wrong, and goes back through the row from the start to find which one.

Once your child feels confident

- Take away the digits and ask your child to line up only the quantities in order.
- Show a digit and ask them to go find that many objects around the house.
- Look together at which quantities make two full columns, and which leave a single dot.

Safety. These pieces are small once cut out. They are not right for a child who still puts objects in their mouth. The adult does the cutting, keeps the pieces out of reach between sessions, and stays present during the activity.

The numbers, to cut out square by square.



The quantities, to cut out square by square. The dots come in pairs: the one left over shows an odd number.

	
	
	
	
	