

Animals

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Count and match

Learning objective

Count reliably up to 10 everyday objects.

What to do

Ask the children to cut out the cards. Challenge them to put them into pairs with the same number of cats. Let them use counters to cover the cats as they count. Make two extra sets of cards and use the cards to play games of Pairs and Snap.

Support: Only four pictures are provided for counting to four.

Extension: The cards with just one cat are removed and the children must draw a pair of cards, each with five cats.

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Dinner time

Learning objective

Use language such as 'more' or 'less' to compare two numbers.

What to do

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and some counters (as 'bones'). Challenge the children to share six 'bones' between the two dogs. Ask questions such as: *Do the dogs have the same amount?* Now ask the children to use an odd number of counters and ask: *Which dog has got more/less 'bones'?*

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Animal patterns

Learning objective

Talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns.

What to do

Ask the children to cut out the tiles from the activity sheet and colour identical animals in the same colour. Make a set for your own use. Next, make a simple repeating pattern such as 'cat, dog, cat, dog...'. Invite the children to copy your pattern. Ask: *What would come next?*

Challenge the children to copy other patterns and then to make some of their own.

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Fish pond

Learning objective

Count reliably up to 10 everyday objects.

What to do

Make a laminated copy of the sheet. Work with a group of five children and give each one a fish. Ask them to take turns to place a fish in the pond. After each child's turn ask the children to tell you the number of fish in the pond. Next, give each child a copy of the sheet. Ask them to trace over the numbers, cut out the fish and put them in the pond, writing the total number of fish in the box provided. Vary the game by asking the children to put specified numbers of fish in the pond. Try placing a numeral card next to the pond and asking the children to tell you what the number is. Can they place a matching number of fish in the pond?

Support: Only three fish and the numbers to three are provided.

Extension: The children will have ten fish to work with.

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Spotty dog!

Learning objective

Count reliably up to 10 everyday objects.

What to do

Provide a dice labelled with three blank and three 'one spot' sides for each pair of children. Give each child a sheet and ask them to cut out the spots. Let each child take turns to throw the dice. When they throw a spot they may take a spot and place it on their dog. The first child to get seven spots and call out 'Spotty dog!' is the winner. Now ask the children to trace over the numbers and then glue a chosen number of spots to their dog, recording the number in the box provided.