

Pompom Play - Hide and Seek
Building Number Sense
1 to 1 Correspondence

What you will need:

- Similar size same color pompoms or other small items (coins, gems, rocks, bows from gifts, colored paper rolled into balls, golf balls, hearts made from colored paper or foam, checkers, chess pieces, buttons, plastic Easter eggs, nuts in the shell, etc.).
- Same number of containers as small items you are using.
- Start with two items and two containers.

What You Do:

1. Set out in your child's workspace the pompoms or small items. One item for each container.
2. Model the activity* by counting the items with your child, dropping the item into the container as you say the number.
3. Increase the number of items as your child becomes competent. You will know your child is competent when he doesn't need prompting from you to count the number of items by saying the correct number as he touches or drops each item.
4. Take the items out of the containers and hide them at or below your child's eye level. Let some of the item show. It needs to be easy to find the items for it to be fun for your child.
5. As your child finds an item, have him put the item in one of the containers. Help him realize that he can know if he found all the items if each container has one item in it. Say, "Oh look, one of the bowls is missing a pompom. Can you find it over by your books?" Remember, he's working on building an important math construct, 1 to 1 correspondence. One item for each container. One item for each number.
6. When he has found all the items, count them with him or have him count them. Remember to have your child touch each item as he counts them.
7. Repeat while interest lasts.

Variations:

1. Let your child hide the items and you find them.
2. Instead of using similar items, use items of the same color.

*Gentle Reminder: Modeling involves three steps.

1. I do it.
2. We do it.
3. You do it.