

Pompoms on Playing Cards

Developing Number Sense

What You Need:

- Deck of cards. Ace (#1) - 4, 2 cards from each suit*. Jumbo playing cards work best.
- Pompoms.

What You Do:

1. Place cards face down in a pile.
2. Child draws a card, placing it in front of her.
3. Child places a pom pom on top of each dot on the card.
4. Second person does the same.
5. Continue until all cards have been drawn or it is time to stop.
6. Person with the most pompoms wins. To help child determine who has the most pompoms, line them up with a pompom from each person opposite each other. It is important that they are evenly spaced. If you place 3 pompoms 2 inches apart and 5 pompoms right next to each other, your child will most likely say there are more pompoms in the row of 3 than the row of 5. Don't worry, eventually he'll figure it out.

Next Steps:

1. As your child becomes competent, increase number of cards used up to 10 cards from each suit. Do not use any of the face cards (jack, queen, king) when playing games to teach number sense.

*Gentle Reminder: Modeling involves three steps.

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