

August and September

Tiny Polka Dot game #1: Match the Dots

Tiny Polka Dot games are wonderful practice for your child to really master the concept of number. This month we will be playing the game Match the Dots which uses pictures of the numbers rather than the abstract number itself to teach your child how much a number name represents. The Math Practice this game addresses is “Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.” Read the Guide for Grownups before you begin playing with your child. The directions are on the card so read them carefully.

As the parent, observe (don't judge!) how your child knows how many are on each card: touching and counting each one or looking at the card and saying the number. This is good information for you to know as the educator as they represent the various stages of learning math. Play this game several times remembering the following:

1. Learning takes time
2. Think out loud
3. Follow their lead
4. Continue to use your fingers if needed
5. Help less, observe more
6. Play and have fun!

The bottom of the card has a section titled Ideas for future games. This section will be important for most of the First graders. Use these ideas when you feel your child can identify the numbers 0-4 without having to touch the dots. When you add in larger numbers or more suits, your child may return to using the touch and count method to figure out how many are on the card.

Tiny Polka Dot game #2: Hungry Numbers

This month we will be playing the game Hungry Numbers which uses pictures of the numbers as well as the abstract number itself. This game provides a transition from using pictures of amounts to the number indicating the amount. The Math Practice for this game is the ability to “Reason abstractly and quantitatively.” The directions are on the card and the bottom of the card has the Ideas for future games once your child is comfortable with the game.

As the parent, consider the following: Even in math we use receptive language and productive language. These skills develop separately. When you say a number and your child can point out the number you called, he or she is demonstrating the receptive skill. When you show your child a number and they have to say it's name, he or she is demonstrating the productive skill. The receptive skill develops first. Observe your child to see where they are with these skills. Play this game several times and revisit Match the Dots as well.

Make sure your child knows one of these games well enough to teach your EC the game!