Explore Number Order

Materials:
*Two Numbers* cards to use:

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1 2 3 4 5 6
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Setup:
1. Shuffle cards
2. Hand child the cards

Goal of the game: child arranges the cards in the correct order, with assistance if needed.

*Note:* This is the first step of the *Two Numbers* games. It can help you figure out each child’s “just right” level of difficulty for future games.
Begin:

Ask questions about the cards.

What do you notice?
Do you see any numbers that you know?
Can you count the dots? How many dots are there?

Ask the child to put the cards in order from 1-6 (smallest to biggest). Have them make sure the numbers are in the correct order.

Variation:
If children are ready for a higher challenge, use the 1-10 or 0-12 cards!

What children are learning:

- This is the first step of the Two Numbers games. It can help you figure out each child’s “just right” level of difficulty for future games. If a child is not yet ready to put cards 1-6 in order, use cards 1-3. If a child easily orders cards 1-6, use more cards or move on to another Two Numbers game.
- Some children need help to count and understand the number of dots on the cards.
- As children explore the cards, see if they recognize the numerals. Do they associate the numerals with the numbers of dots? Do they associate numerals and dots with their number words (e.g., 3; 3 dots; “three”)?
- Talk to children about their strategy: how are they ordering the cards? Some children may order them based on their written numerals; others may order them according to their dots (least to most).