What’s the Missing Card?

1-4 players
Ages 4+
5-10 minutes

Materials:
*Two Numbers* cards to use:

1-5 (add more cards as children gain experience)

Goal of the game: children identify which number cards are missing from the line.

Setup:
1. Shuffle cards
2. Ask children to put the cards in order from 1-5
Play:

Say, “Close your eyes. I’m going to take one card away. See if you know which card is missing!”

Once the children close their eyes, remove one card

The children open their eyes. Ask one player, “What’s the missing card?”

If the player correctly identifies the missing card, say, “Yes, it is 4! 4 comes after 3 and before 5.” Replace the card and play again with the next player.

If the player cannot correctly identify the missing card, help them count the cards from 1 to find the missing card.

What children are learning:

- Notice which strategies children use to identify the missing card. Strategy choice can tell you a lot about what children know and what they are ready to learn.
- Some children will count the cards from 1 up to the missing card. Other children will know the missing card right away because they know 4 comes after 3 and before 5. Encourage children to notice the “number-after” by pointing it out each time you play.
- For more information, see Clements & Sarama (2013). Building Blocks, Volumes 1 and 2. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.