

Make 5! with Fingers



1-4 players

Ages 4+

5-10 minutes

Materials: Fingers and hands

Goal of the game: to combine fingers on two hands so that they add up to five.

Setup:

Hold your hands behind your back




Play:

Say, “Let’s work together to hold up five fingers in all. I’m going to hold up some fingers. Can you hold up the rest of the fingers we need to make five in all?”

Bring one hand forward and hold up two fingers.



Ask, “How many fingers am I holding up? How many more fingers do we need to make five?”

Wait for children to hold up three fingers. 

Say, “Yes! I am holding up two fingers, and three more makes 5!”

Put your hands behind your back. Continue playing using different combinations of fingers.

What children are learning:

- This game focuses on number composition – knowing that two smaller numbers make up a larger number. In this game, children are adding two smaller sets of fingers that together make five.
- Practicing number composition in preschool helps children’s math learning later on.
- It’s important for children to recognize that a quantity can be shown in different ways — with fingers, numerals, dots in different configurations, and more. Having practice playing with number in many forms helps to strengthen this concept.