How Many Are Hiding?

1-4 players

Ages 4+

5-10 minutes

Materials:

5 small tokens: poker chips, pennies, or other small items

![Images of tokens]

1 felt cloth, handkerchief, or other small covering

Goal of the game: to name how many tokens are underneath the covering

Setup:

1. Ask children to put a number of tokens out on the table or floor. Start with five tokens or fewer.

![Image of tokens]
Play:

- Say, “Close your eyes!”

- Use the cloth to cover up some of the tokens.

- Have children open their eyes. Ask, “How many are hiding?”

  ![three tokens]

  - three

Continue hiding different quantities of tokens underneath the cloth. Try hiding all of the tokens and none of the tokens! This often generates laughs and silly answers.

*Note:* Have children take on the role of the “hider.” They will enjoy hiding the tokens for you!

What children are learning:

- It helps to start with 5 tokens because children have 5 fingers on one hand. Their fingers can help them keep track of the number of tokens they first saw (5) and then help them figure out how many are hiding.
- Encourage children to count the tokens they can’t see by pointing to each token and whispering its number name “1, 2, 3...” through the felt.