

How Many Are Hiding?



1-4 players

Ages 4+

5-10 minutes

Materials:

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



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.



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?"



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.