

How Many Are Hiding? with Fingers

Players 1-4



Ages 4+



5-10 min

GOAL

To name how many fingers are hiding.

MATERIALS

Hands



VOCABULARY

How many?
Hiding
Up
Behind

QUESTIONS

How did you remember there were five in all?
How did you figure out how many were hiding?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Hold up your hand with five fingers extended. Ask, “**How many fingers are here?**”
2. Hide one finger. Ask, “**How many fingers are hiding?**”
3. Once children identify the number of fingers hiding, continue playing by hiding different numbers of fingers. Try hiding all of your fingers and none of your fingers! This makes children laugh and give silly answers.

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

TIPS FOR PLAYING

1. Try playing this game with your palm facing toward the other player and then with the back of your hand facing toward the other player. Does it make a difference? Is it easier or harder to say how many are hiding when children can't see the fingers that are down?

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- This game helps children recognize that bigger numbers, like 5, are made up of smaller numbers, like 1 and 4. This is referred to as number composition and is an important skill for children to learn to help them with addition and subtraction later on.
- Children are practicing saying how many they don't see instead of how many they do see. This is an important skill, but it can be hard. If it seems too challenging, you can have children say how many they do see until they are ready to say how many are hiding.

MATH TOPICS

Number: Counting and Cardinality

Number: Operations

VIDEO



Watch Game Video

View the QR code in your smartphone's camera app or QR code reader to watch a video that shows how to play How Many Are Hiding with Fingers.