

Copy My Dots (With Counters)



1-4 players

Ages 3+

5-10 minutes

Materials: Counters or Tokens, Large Format Dot Cards, Game Board

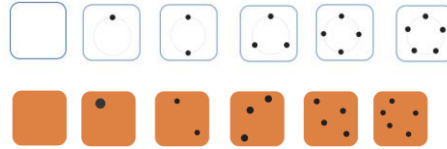
Start with:

Large Format Dot cards 0-5



Later games:

Add higher quantities 6-10



Goal of the game: to copy the quantity and dot configuration with tokens on your game board or table.

Setup:

1. Shuffle the cards 
2. Place a card face up so all can see.



Play:



Say, “I’m going to try to copy this pattern with my tokens. I think I have the same number of tokens! Do they match? How do you know? Are they the same or different? They are the same number but in a different pattern.”



Say, “Now it’s your turn. Can you use your tokens to copy my dots?”
As children play ask, “Do you have the same number of tokens? Does your pattern look like my pattern? Why or why not?”

Keep playing with higher quantities. Notice if children can count out the same number of tokens and copy the dot arrangement.

What children are learning:

- Children may count the dots on their card and the number of tokens they have to confirm that they have the same amount.
- Notice if children: know the number order when counting (1, 2, 3, 4, ...) and can coordinate the number word said while pointing to one dot at a time.
- When they are able to count one object at a time in the correct number order, they are using one-to-one correspondence. Help them name the last number they count as the total number in the set—this helps them practice cardinality or knowing how many in all.
- As children count out tokens to match the quantity on the card this also helps them practice cardinality!

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.