


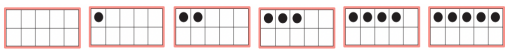



Match the Dots



1-4 players


Ages 3+

5-10 minutes

Materials:	
Start with:	Later games:
<p>Yellow dice cards 0-5</p>  <p>Pink ten-frame cards 0-5</p> 	<p>Add other dots cards 0-5</p>    <p>Add 6-10 cards</p>

Goal of the game: to match quantities that are shown in different configurations.

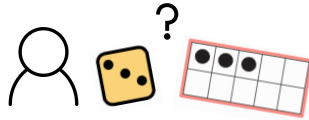
Setup:

1. Shuffle the cards 
2. Place the cards face up so all can see. If 12 cards are too many, remove 1-2 pairs. You can add more pairs as children are ready.

Play:



Say, "I'm going to try to find two cards that have the same number of dots on them. I think these cards have the same number! Do they match? How do you know?"



Say, "Now it's your turn. Can you find two cards with the same number of dots on them?"

The game ends when all of the pairs are matched!



What children are learning:

- Some children may count the dots on each card to see if they have the same number. When children count, notice whether they say the correct number order (1, 2, 3, 4...) and whether they point to the dots one-by-one.
- When children are able to count objects one-by-one in the correct number order, they are using one-to-one correspondence. Help children label the last number they count as the total number in the set (e.g., "one, two, three, there are three in all"). This helps them practice *cardinality* – knowing how many in all.
- As children practice, they may begin to look at the cards and know how many dots there are right away. This is called *subitizing* – recognizing how many immediately. Subitizing is an important early math skill. You can model subitizing by saying, "I saw 4 dots here, and 1 more dot, and I knew that was 5!"