

Match the Dots

Players 1-4



Ages 3+



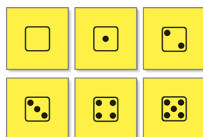
5-10 min

GOAL

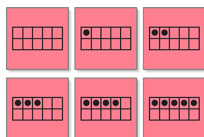
To match cards with the same number of dots when the dots are arranged differently.

CARDS TO USE

Start with:



Dice
0-5



10 Frame
0-5

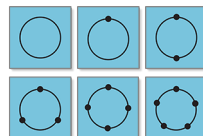
For later games: select more cards, one set at a time:



Ordered Dots
0-5

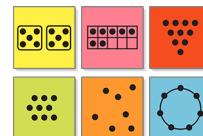


Scattered Dots
0-5



Circle
0-5

Extra Challenge



Select more cards
6-10

VOCABULARY

Match

Pairs

Same

QUESTIONS

How can you figure out which cards match?

How did you know those were a match?

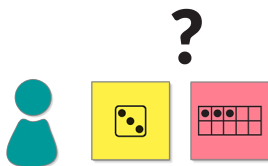
How are those cards the same? How are they different?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Select and shuffle the cards.



2. Place the cards face up so all can see. If 12 cards are too many, remove one or two pairs. You can add more pairs as children are ready.
3. 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?"



4. Say, "Now it's your turn. Can you find two cards with the same number of dots on them?"
5. 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!"

MATH TOPICS

Number: Counting and Cardinality

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 Match the Dots.