

Make 5! with Fingers

Players 1+ Ages 4+ 5-10 min

GOAL

To show 5 using two hands.

MATERIALS

Hands



VOCABULARY

In all
How many more
Take away
Remove

QUESTIONS

How many more fingers do we need to make five?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Hold your hands behind your back.
2. Say, "Let's work together to hold up five fingers in all. I'm going to hold up some fingers. Now, with your hand, hold up the rest of the fingers to make five in all."
3. Bring one hand forward and hold up two fingers.
4. Ask, "How many fingers am I holding up? How many more fingers do we need to make five?"

5. Wait for children to hold up three fingers.
6. Say, "Yes! I am holding up two fingers, and three more fingers makes 5! 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Five fingers."
7. Put your hands behind your back. Continue playing using different combinations of fingers.



TIPS FOR PLAYING

- Players can make different numbers other than 5. They can make combinations of 3 or 4, or if children are ready for more of a challenge, they can make numbers up to 10.
- If children are ready for numbers more than 10, you can ask a friend to lend their hands to make numbers up to 15 or 20.
- To practice subtracting numbers, you can ask the child to hold up 5 fingers while you hold up fewer than 5 fingers, and then ask, "How many fingers do you need to take away to get to my number of fingers?"

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- This game focuses on number composition – knowing that two smaller numbers make up a larger number. This is the foundation for addition and subtraction. In this game, children are adding together the number of fingers being held up on two hands.
- It's important for children to recognize that a given quantity can be represented in different ways – with fingers, numerals, dots in different configurations, and more. Having practice playing with number in many forms helps to strengthen this concept.

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 Make 5! with Fingers.