

Numbers, Numbers, 1, 2, 3

Players 1+ Ages 2 5-10 min

GOAL

To say and to show how many fingers are being held up.

MATERIALS

Hands



VOCABULARY

How many
Same
Different

QUESTIONS

How many fingers do you see?
Can you show me a different way to show that many?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Hold your hands behind your back.
2. Chant, “Numbers, numbers, 1, 2, 3. How many fingers do you see?” Hold up three fingers on one hand.
3. Wait for children to say “three” and ask them to show three using their own fingers.
4. Put your hands behind your back again and continue playing with different numbers of fingers.

5. Vary the ways you hold up your fingers. You can show three:



TIPS FOR PLAYING

- Start with 1 to 5 fingers. As children progress, show 6 to 10 fingers.
- 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.
- This game can be played anywhere. You can play for a short time or a long time. It's great when you're waiting in line or as a transition activity in the classroom.

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- Five is a great number to start practicing composing numerals because we have five fingers on each hand.
- This game helps children recognize that smaller numbers are "hiding inside" larger numbers (e.g., that 3 and 1 are two parts of 4).

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 Numbers, Numbers, 1, 2, 3.