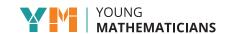# How Many Are Hiding?
## with Counters

Players 1–4 • Ages 4+ • 5–10 min

## GOAL

To name how many tokens are hiding underneath the covering.

## MATERIALS

5 tokens: counters, pennies, or other small items

One cloth, piece of paper, or other covering

## VOCABULARY

How many

Token

Hiding

Underneath

## QUESTIONS

How did you remember there were five in all?

How did you figure out how many were hiding?

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Ask children to place the tokens on the table or floor.

2. Have children count the number of tokens. Ask, "How many tokens are here?"

3. Once children have counted the 5 tokens, say, "Close your eyes!"

Use the cloth to cover up 3 of the tokens.

4. Have children open their eyes. Ask, "How many tokens are hiding?"

Three

Some children might quickly recognize that 3 tokens are hiding. Others will need your help to remember that there were 5 tokens in all. Have them count to 5 by pointing to or tapping the 2 visible tokens and then tapping the cloth one time for each hidden token.

Once children identify the number of tokens hiding, continue playing by hiding different quantities of tokens underneath the cloth. Try hiding all of the tokens and none of the tokens! This makes children laugh and give silly answers.

*Note:* Have children take on the role of the "hider." They will enjoy hiding the tokens for you!

## TIPS FOR PLAYING

- When first playing this game, if 5 objects is too challenging, you can use 3. If 5 objects is too easy, you can use 6 or more.

- Starting with 5 objects is helpful because children have 5 fingers on their hand. They start to realize that they can

represent quantities with their fingers, and that if they see 5 of something, it's the same number of things as they have fingers on their hand.

- Encourage children to count the objects they can't see by pointing to each item beneath the cloth and whispering its number name "one, two, three…"

## WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- Children are practicing not saying how many objects they see and instead saying how many they don't see. This is hard. If it seems too challenging, you can have children say how many they do see until they are ready to say how many are hiding.

- Children are practicing early addition and subtraction skills. They are learning that 5 is composed of smaller numbers like 3 and 2 or 4 and 1. This is part of understanding what it means to be 5 of something.

## MATH TOPICS

| Number: Counting and Cardinality | Number: Operations |
|---|---|

## 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 *How Many Are Hiding?*

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