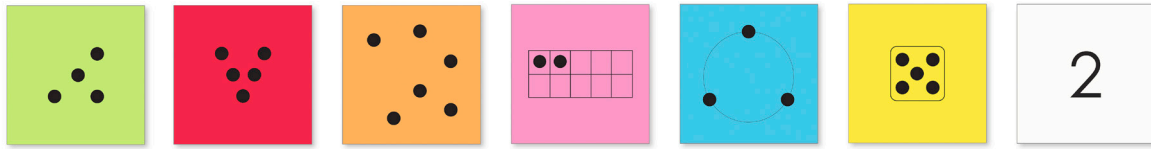


The Dot Cards



The Dot Cards are a great tool to have around at home and in the classroom. Here are some ideas of how you can use the Dot Cards:

Look at and talk about the Dot Cards. You can ask questions like, “What do you notice about these cards? What’s the same about these cards? What’s different about them?” This is a great way for young children who are just starting to explore the Dot Cards. Sorting by color or other attributes is another way to help them become familiar with the number of dots on the cards.

Shuffle the Dot Cards and show one card to a player for just a few seconds. The children look at the card and try to remember how many dots they see. The goal is to immediately recognize, or in math terms, subitize, how many dots are on a card.

Use a combination of two Dot Cards to add up to five. This helps children to recognize that numbers can be composed, or made, in different ways. Children can recognize that smaller numbers are “hiding inside” larger numbers: 1 and 3 are hiding inside 4 or 2 and 3 are hiding inside 5.

Set up two rows: one of numeral cards and one of Dot Cards. Match the different Dot Cards to their corresponding numeral card. This helps children recognize how written numerals connect to quantities. If you want to increase the challenge, you can play with higher quantities of dot and numeral cards.

Spark a discussion to have kids share different ideas and make logical arguments. Put three cards on the table and ask, “Which one doesn’t belong?” Listen as children try to come up with as many reasons as they can. These discussions are a great way to help kids learn to explain their thinking and to support their choices with evidence all while building their math skills.

Make up your own game!