

Sock Toss

Players 2+



Ages 3–8



10 min

GOAL

To find combinations of numbers that total to 5 by keeping track of how many objects land inside and outside of a basket.

MATERIALS

Laundry basket, hula hoop, bucket, shoe box, or any other container



5 pairs of socks (rolled into balls) or balled up pieces of paper



VOCABULARY

Inside, outside

Altogether

More, fewer

Greater than, less than

QUESTIONS

How many pairs of socks are there altogether?

How many pairs of socks are inside/outside the laundry basket?

Are there more pairs of socks inside or outside of the laundry basket? How do you know? How many more?

What do you notice about the combinations to 5?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Set a laundry basket at a distance from where you will stand.

2. Try to toss each pair of socks (rolled into a ball) into the basket. Be sure to toss all 5 pairs.
3. Notice and keep track of how many pairs are inside the laundry basket and how many pairs are outside of the laundry basket. Ask questions, such as:

“How many pairs of socks are **inside** the laundry basket?”
“How many pairs of socks are **outside** the laundry basket?”
“How many pairs of socks are there **altogether**?”

Do we have the **same** number of objects inside and outside of the basket? If not, how could we have the same number?
4. You can also ask comparison questions such as:

“Is the number of socks inside the laundry basket **more** or **less** than the number outside?”
5. Play again. You can vary the number of socks you toss or keep going with 5.

TIPS FOR PLAYING

- You can also use other materials instead of socks, such as teddy bears, balled up pieces of paper, pom-poms, etc.
- To make the game challenging for older children, you can make the object you throw worth different values. The older siblings' objects could be worth 2 or 3 points while the younger siblings' objects are worth 1 point.
- To make the game more challenging, increase the number of objects: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, etc. When you tally your score, you will be practicing addition of different numbers.
- You can vary the distance of the laundry basket or make the basket smaller or larger to make the game more or less challenging.
- Take the game outside. Gather some pebbles and a long stick and see how many get on your side of the stick and how many on the far side.

- For more games that help children practice early addition, check out our games *Make 5* and *Make 5 with Fingers*.

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- This game gives children practice with counting, cardinality, number combinations, and comparing numbers.

Counting: Children have the opportunity to count the pairs of socks in a variety of different combinations – those inside the laundry basket, outside the laundry basket, and altogether.

Cardinality: When they count, children learn that the last number counted is the total number for that set (cardinality).

Number Combinations: Children also learn about number combinations that equal 5.

Comparing Numbers: Children have the opportunity to compare quantities to see which is *greater* or *less*.

- If you want, you can keep track of each round using one of the tables below – either with numerals or with tally marks.

Inside	Outside	OR	Inside	Outside
3	2			
1	4			
5	0			

- Keeping track lets you talk about all the combinations of numbers that make 5. You can ask, “How many different ways can we make 5?”

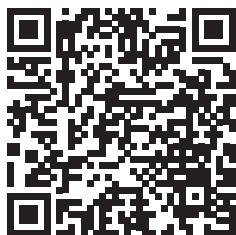
You can also compare your results for each round of the game. Notice the trends in the data, are we getting better at getting socks in the laundry basket as we play?

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 *Sock Toss*.