

Building Blocks Tips Week 8

This week children use their auditory skills as they listen and then count what they hear. In the small group kids roll a die, count the dots and move the same number of steps along a path on a game board, which is another form of “producing”. Children’s understanding of number is deepened by the introduction of different representations of number – the sound of number and moving a game piece a number of steps along a line.

Teaching Strategies Connection: 20. Uses number concepts and operations. 20a.Counts 20b. Quantifies 20c. Connects numerals with their quantities

Whole Group- (WG) Listen & Count (p. 118) **Listen & Copy** (p.120) and **Number Jump** (p.120)

- For “**Listen and Count**”: You can do this activity without reading a counting book. **Material choice is important so that children hear one and only one sound for each object dropped.** Marbles dropped in a can might bounce and produce multiple sounds. Try out materials you plan to use beforehand so you know it works. You could try using rhythm sticks. Have children close their eyes and listen for how many taps they hear. Magnets in a tin maybe?
- “**Number Jump**” helps children internalize producing by using their bodies and connects quantity (# of jumps) with numerals.

Small Group (SG) Game Board “Number Race” . Materials: Board game and animal game pieces (bunnies are great for hopping – don’t use vehicles)

There are three levels for this game. The simplest is to move forward to a target number (say 20 or 30), ignoring the green and red circles (which at the next level, would involve taking another turn and going forward or backward). At first the numerals may be a distraction, but if you say “don’t worry about the numbers” kids move on easily and ignore them. You can also use the simpler board game “Race to the bowl of porridge” (no numerals). Use with the smaller dice (1-3).



Number Race Board Game. (p. 120) Most children need help learning how to play a board game, unless they play with older siblings at home. Tell parents the best way to help children develop math skills is to play board games with their children. Things children need to know:

- Move **forward** on the first count. Children tend to count the resting position as **one**. It might help to say “You are at zero, you need to move forward to one” (demonstrate).
- Every circle (or square) must be counted (it is harder to count moves on a game board than to count objects). They must stop at the target number.
- A game piece is in the way? Children tend to jump over and skip that space). Teach kids to include that space in the counting (maybe by touching the other piece as they count and move past it). If they land in the same place as another player, they need to share the space.

Remember to differentiate the die. Have multiple dice ready; 1-3, regular die and numeral die – only use numeral die with kids who really know numerals already.