

Materials Needed

- Stiff plastic or wood to make a fishing rod (straw, chopstick, skewer, etc.)
- Pen, pencil or marker
- Paper
- Scissors
- String
- Sticky tape
- Paper to cut out 20 fish shapes (see template provided)

Grade Range

Pre-K

Topics/Skills

Math: Counting; Hand-eye coordination; Comparing numbers

Learning Standards

CCSS Math: [Counting and Cardinality](#)

Duration

20 – 30 minutes

Prep Time

10 – 15 minutes

Fishin' For Numbers

Catch the Fish and Learn Numbers



Fishin' For Numbers reinforces number recognition, counting skills, 1:1 correspondence and simple addition or subtraction for young children in a fun way. Students use a sticky hook to catch fish! How many can they catch?

Activity Challenge

Identify and count numbers.

Preparation

1. Gather materials and select workspace. Workspace should have a smooth surface, such as a table, countertop or floor.
2. Cut out 20 fish from paper. Use the template below if needed.
3. Tape string to one tip of a fishing rod. The fishing rod can be made from a straw, chopstick, skewer, etc. Make sure the string is secure.
4. Secure a piece of tape on the end of the fishing line (string). Make sure that the sticky part of the tape is facing outward so that it can be hooked to catch the paper fish.
5. On each fish represent a number by either writing a numeral, writing a simple addition or subtraction problem, or drawing dots.

To Do

1. Place the fish on smooth surface (table, countertop, floor).
2. Each student catches a fish with the fishing pole by touching the hook (sticky tape) to the paper fish. The student then takes the fish from the tape and says the number represented on the fish. If the student names the number correctly, he or she keeps the fish. If the student names it incorrectly, the fish gets thrown back into the "water".
3. Students take turns in this fashion until all the fish have been caught.

Observations

Discuss the "catch". How many fish were caught? What were the hardest fish to catch and why?

Extensions

- At the end of the game, students could sort their fish by the number each represents. Which number is represented most often? Least often?
- At the end of the game, students can make a bar graph with their fish. Who got the most of which number?
- Add more fish to the “water” for greater variety and greater challenge. This could include more advanced skills such as multiplication or division problems. Or add more sizes of fish, big and small.
- Challenge students to catch as many fish as they can in a given time period (e.g. – 30 seconds).
- Add a spinner! The player spins to determine which number fish to try and catch.

The Content behind the Activity

Fishin’ for Numbers provides a social opportunity to practice math skills as well as hand-eye coordination. In lieu of having a “winner”, comparing and discussing the students’ catches provides an opportunity for teachers/parents to reinforce numbers and counting, as well as serving as an excellent springboard into sorting, basic addition, and bar graphing.

Fish Template

