

Go Fish

Primary Objectives

20c. Connects numerals with their quantities

Why It's Important

Playing with a deck of cards gives your child the opportunity to practice numeral recognition. For numbers he may not yet recognize, he can count the symbols on the card to determine the number. Using cards for simple games also teaches cooperation and turn taking.

Materials

Deck of cards

What You Do

1. Invite your child to play a card game with you. Ask him to give seven cards to you and seven to himself. Offer assistance, as needed. Encourage him to hold his cards in his hands or to lay them cards out on the table, if that is easier for him.
2. Explain that he will start by asking if you have the same card as one that is in his hand. For example, if he has a seven, he should ask you if you have a seven. If you do, give it to him. If you don't, say *Go fish!* He then picks up a card from the pile to see if he can get a seven. If he doesn't get a seven, then it is your turn to ask. When someone gets a pair of matching cards, they should take the matched pair out of their hands and place it on the table before taking another turn.
3. If your child has difficulty recognizing the numeral on his card, encourage him to count the number of symbols showing.
4. The game is over when one of you finds matches to all of the cards in your hand. The players then count how many pairs they have.
5. Continue the game for as long as your child is interested.