

Number Beanbags

EI-3047
Grades Pre-K+
Ages 3+

Teacher's Guide

Number Beanbags are a fun, active way to encourage young learners' beginning math skills, from number identification to counting, and even simple addition and subtraction. Here are several game ideas to get you started.

Toss and Say

Divide children into pairs or small groups. Give each team a pile of beanbags. Depending on the age and ability of your students, have children stand from three to six (or more) feet from one another. Have the children take turns tossing the beanbags to one another, identifying them on each toss. **Variation:** As a large group activity, have children toss and say the beanbags in numerical order.

Number Line Toss

Place the beanbags on the ground in numerical order, leaving spaces for some "missing" numbers. For example, set out 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, and so on. Have children choose the missing numbers and toss them into the correct position on the number line.

Number Relay

Divide the beanbags into two equal piles, one for the numbers 1 to 10 and one for the numbers 11 to 20. Place the beanbags in two large shoeboxes or other containers at the start of the race. Place two empty containers at the end of the race. Divide your class into two teams. Have the first child in each team find the beanbag with the team's assigned first number on it (1 or 11). As soon as the child finds the number, he or she balances it on the head, hand, shoulder, or other chosen body part, walks quickly to the empty container, deposits the beanbag in the correct order, and runs back to the starting point. The next child finds the next number in the sequence, balances it, races to the container, and so on. The winning team is the one that finishes first, with the numbers in the correct order.

Number Toss

Make a giant number game board from a plastic shower curtain or tablecloth. Draw grid lines with a permanent marker, dividing the game board into 20 sections. Cut out pictures from magazines, use stickers, or have children draw sets of objects or animals for each number from 1 to 20 on large index cards. Tape the pictures to the game board. Have children take turns tossing the beanbags onto the pictures with the matching number of objects. **Note:** Begin by taping the pictures in numerical order. Older or more experienced children will enjoy the challenge of the pictures being placed on the game board in random order.

Name That Number

Draw ten large number circles on the ground. Label each circle with a number word from one to ten. Set out the beanbags, number side up. Have children toss the appropriate beanbags into the circles. Afterward, they can turn the beanbags over to check their tosses. When children have mastered the number words from one to ten, try the number words from eleven to twenty. **Variation:** Label the circles with the numbers 1 to 10 and set out the beanbags, number word facing up.

Toss and Add

Write addition facts (with sums 20 or less) on index cards, such as $3 + 4$, $9 + 8$, $10 + 2$, and so on. Mix up the deck of cards. Children take turns choosing a card and then throwing the beanbags for the facts and their solutions into a large laundry basket, calling out the facts as they go into the basket; for example, "Three plus four equals seven." For younger or more inexperienced children, you can print the answers on the other side of the cards. **Variation:** Play the game using subtraction facts.

Beanbag Addition Fun

Draw an "addition circle" for children to toss the beanbags into. Label the circle with a number, such as 10. Have children choose two beanbags whose sum is 10, such as 4 and 6, 2 and 8, and so on. Have children take turns tossing the bags into the number circle, calling out the numbers for each toss; for example, "Eight plus two equals ten." **Variation:** Try the same game with a "subtraction circle."

For more active toss-and-learn fun, look for these additional beanbag sets:

- EI-3044 Phonics Beanbags
- EI-3045 Alphabet Beanbags
- EI-3046 Colors Beanbags
- EI-3048 Shapes Beanbags
- EI-3049 Teachable Touchables™ Texture Squares

