



Find the Stolen Number

Count each place and find the missing number in the line.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Counting through a row to find a missing numeral helps your child become familiar with number order and use the sequence as a clue.



Emergent Literacy

Repeatedly seeing, hearing, and saying number names helps your child connect each written numeral with its pronunciation.

Steps

- Arrange the number cards from a deck in order and choose a toy to be the Number Thief.
- Demonstrate once: hide one card, count forward from 1, and stop where the sequence has a gap.
- Ask your child to close their eyes while the toy steals one card, then ask which number is missing.
- Let your child search first. After a pause, remind them that counting the row one card at a time can help.
- If they become stuck, count together and stop before the gap: "One, two...what comes next?"
- When the number is found, make the toy say, "You caught me! It was 3." Let your child return the card and choose whether to play again.

Tips

- Start with the numerals from 1 to 5. When your child can find the missing numeral easily, try a longer sequence or remove more than one card.

Observations

- Counts the playing cards one by one and finds the missing numbers
- Reads the numbers on several playing cards