



Deck of Cards

...Count the Deck!

Beginner: Use a deck of cards to say the numbers, guess how many cards are in one pile, or count the symbols on the cards to answer “how many?”

[Tip]: You can make your own deck of cards with paper!

Intermediate: Make snakes with the cards and see who can make the longest snake. Guess how many cards are in each snake. Then count the cards to check.

[Tip]: Introduce vocabulary words such as number words, long, short, left, right, circle snake, curly snake, and straight snake.

Experienced: Create patterns and sequences, find even or odd numbers, find number matches, or take two cards and guess their total when added together.

[Tip]: You can remove the face cards and aces or give them a value (aces = 1).

Why is this important? Card games expose children to numbers, counting, and number facts.

References: Scalise, N. R., Daubert, E. N., & Ramani, G. B. (2020). Benefits of Playing Numerical Card Games on Head Start Children’s Mathematical Skills. *Journal of Experimental Education*, 88(2), 200–220. <https://doi-org.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/00220973.2019.1581721>