



Getting to Know Place Value

Guess That Number!

Beginner: Count objects out loud.

[Tip]: “Let’s count these apple slices, **1, 2, 3!** You have **3** apple slices.”

Intermediate: Pick a number between 10-20. Hold up all 10 of your fingers and ask your child to hold up the remaining digits. Show your child what number this makes.

[Tip]: “I am holding up **10** fingers. This is **1** ten”, “Now you hold up **4** fingers. This is **4** ones”, “**10** and **4** makes **14!**”

Experienced: Think of a number for your child to guess. Tell them how many tens and ones there are.

[Tip]: “Guess my number. I have **3** tens and **5** ones. **3** tens is **30**, and **5** ones is **5**. What is my number? Correct, it’s **35!**”

Why is this important? Understanding place value helps children identify numbers in daily activities such as money, distance, and time.

References:

Chan, W. W. L., Au, T. K., Lau, N. T. T., & Tang, J. (2017). Counting errors as a window onto children's place-value concept. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 51, 123–130. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2017.07.001>