

Theme: Card games- war

Basic card games are a great way to teach the beginning aspects of numerical comprehension. This template addresses the use of the card game “war” (yes, we no it’s a bad name but it’s the name of the game.....) to help a child learn about the numbers 1-10. It is also helpful in teaching children what it means for a number to be bigger or smaller than another numerical value.

In this card game you take a standard deck of cards and remove all the character cards (joker, king, and queen). The deck is shuffled and half the stack is given to the child and half is given to the adult.

Each person turns over the first card on the top of their half of the deck at the same time. Whoever has the largest number gets to take both cards. For example, if Beth turns over a 2 and her mom turns over a 5 then mom would get to take both cards.

While the cards are turned over the parental figure should ask the child which card is bigger (Beth which card is bigger, the 2 or the 5?) If the child does not comprehend which is bigger or guesses incorrectly then the parent should then tell the child which number is the biggest of the two.

This procedure is continued throughout the game unless both cards that are overturned are of the same value. In which case, the parent should ask the child if one card is bigger than another (Beth, is the red 6 bigger than the blue six?) Before an incorrect statement can be made, the parental figure should follow the question with the statement that the cards are equal.

It may take several games for the child to start to comprehend the ideas of bigger and equal.

Note: You may wish to have a pile of small beads or blocks with you when you play the card game. This would allow you to put a visual representation of what a number represents. For example, you may wish to have the child get two beads when he flips over a card with the number two on it. The child could then compare their card that has two beads next to it to their parent’s card which has four beads next to it.

Once the child is able to comprehend the ideas of bigger and equal then you should help them generalize the statements. Our templates titled “  
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”, can help with this. If however, you are outside you may wish to ask the child