

## 123 Come Do Some Nice Dice Activities With Me!

I wanted to include my blog article about this packet, as it has some other wonderful tips in it. If the links don't work within this document, and you want to visit those pages, go to the blog article at: $\mathrm{http}: / / \mathrm{bit} . \mathrm{ly} / \mathrm{wVnSpS}$

If you're not at the Nice Dice article, type Nice Dice in the search box to bop on over.


MY Y5'S LOVED playing with dice. I did all sorts of fun activities with them to help reinforce 1 to 6 number concepts, so I decided to design a dice packet complete with cards and activities.

Dice are a wonderful vehicle for teaching your kiddo's to subitize. Subitizing, was coined in 1949 by E.L. Kaufman. The term is derived from the Latin adjective subitus which means "sudden". A person who has affectively mastered this skill immediately knows how many items there are, without having to stop and count them.

According to studies most people can subitize up to 10. Dominoes are also a fun way to get subitizing practice in. Click on the link for my Dominoe Math Packet.

With that in mind, I thought it would be helpful to have a set of big dice flashcards to use for practice. Print, laminate \& trim the cards and fasten them together with a split ring. Flash a card and have children call out that number. To whole-group assess, flash a card and have children silently hold up that many fingers. You can tell at a glance who is having difficulty.

The packet includes a set of large teacher dice cards, a smaller set for students to sequence, + a mini set so you can play a whole-group game of "Show Me What I Need To Make $\qquad$ ." Teacher holds up her big card and asks children to show them what they need to make another number. i.e. I hold up the \#2 dice, and ask children to show me what other dice they need to make the sum of 5. They would hopefully show me the \#3 card.


I've also included math symbol cards, so students can make equations, a bookmark you can use as a whole-group assessment game, a roll \& dot dice game, 2 trace-write and match worksheets, + a What's Missing? activity.

Laminate a set of bookmarks and use them for another math dice activity. Review the numbers orally and have children point to that number and count with you. You can count from a certain number up to 6 or even count backwards.

Make extra copies of the medium-sized cards so students can play a Memory Match game. They can match the dice to the number box, or the number word, or all three. I've also included a cover so students can sequence the cards and make an Itty Bitty booklet. There's a separate set of dice-number-number word cards to print, laminate and cut into puzzles too.

These are a wonderful whole-group assessment tool too. Give students one $\boldsymbol{M \&} \boldsymbol{M} \boldsymbol{M}$ (mighty math marker) to move to whatever number is called out. After glancing around, jot down names of children and the numbers they are having problems identifying. I used sticky notes and a clipboard. After the game, students can eat their candy.

Children can also practice one-to-one correspondence, by having them place however many pony beads or other small items, onto the square that will match the number amount on the dice picture. Click on the link to view/download the Dice Math Packet.


As far as dice are concerned, I really like the large foam dice that they sell at The Dollar store. They are easy for little ones to hold, don't fly on the floor as much, and are blessedly quiet!

If your Dollar Store doesn't have them, you can also purchase them from Oriental Trading. They are only $\$ 4$ for a dozen. They come in an assortment of rainbow colors, so i also used them for patterning.


Another quiet way I had my students "roll dice" was to recycle those mini water bottles. I'd toss two dice inside, fill with water and a bit of glitter and glue the caps shut with Gorilla Glue.

Students enjoyed shaking up the dice and then peeking on the bottom to see what their numbers were. Use a drop of food coloring or a pinch of plastic seasonal confetti, for extra pizzazz or to make special ones for Halloween, Valentine's Day etc.

I wanted to include a photo here, so I Googled waterbottle dice and found a teacher who also uses them, over at Kids Count. Shari has some math FREEBIES using dice as well. Click on the link to check out her wonderful creativity.

review the numbers on trick". I'd use a big child. They'd come up the dice and choose a

As mentioned yesterday, some clever person has come up with a little dice INSIDE a larger dice. Woo hoo for creativity. I'm sure they'll be a hit with your kiddo's. You can get a pack of 8 for only $\$ 2.28$ from Pure Fun or $\$ 2.69$ from On The Fly Supply.


> One of my favorite ways to a dice was with a "magic foam dice and choose a to the front of the class, look at number they wanted to show the
 other children.

I reminded the class NOT to shout out the answer, or they'd ruin the trick. Carefully, so they didn't reveal the face of the dice and the number to me, they'd keep it facing the class and hold it above their head. I stood behind the child so I could see the number on the back of the dice. I'd pretend to be "reading" their minds and
then ask: "Are you looking at the number 3?"
I also had a dice and would show them that number. To their utter amazement they were looking at that number! "Do it again! Do it again!" could be heard, as well as, "How did you do that?" I did not reveal the answer to the trick 'til I was done using this as a number review game. I told my students I'd let them know the answer, when everyone could recognize numbers 1 to 6 , then they could practice and do the trick for their families.

One of the parents of my Y5's told me at conferences that her son Garret couldn't wait to find out. She asked about the trick, so I showed her and shared the secret. Karen taught high school math and wondered how she could do it with her students. I told her to use it as a math problem. Demonstrate the trick and then have students try and figure out how it was mathematically done. She reported back that it was a HUGE success, and has used it every year!


The secret? The front and back numbers of a dice, when added together, will always equal 7 , so if you are looking at the number 5 , your students will be looking at the number 2. Cool huh? I hope you have as much fun with this as I do.

I found this photo of a tot with a jumbo dice and thought that would be a really fun size for this activity. Even after searching, I could not find a source to buy just one jumbo dice. I found really humongous "cheese" ones with green dots (Go Packers!), but nothing this size. Anyone out there know? You can leave a comment here, or shoot me an e-mail: diane@teachwithme.com

"I am learning all of the time. My tombstone will be my diploma." -Eartha Kit $\dagger$



Run off as a bookmark for each child to point to and count. Use as a whole group assessment tool. Give students an M\&M (mighty math) marker to move to whatever number is called out.
Have children do one-to-one correspondence by having them place pony beads or other small items onto the square that will match the number amount on the dice.
For a fine motor skill, have students cut up the cards and then practice sequencing the numbers.

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Print, laminate and trim. Store in Snack Baggies. Give each child a set. Teacher plays "Show me what I need to make $\qquad$ " If you have a class-set of dice, children can simply show the number by flipping their dice.


Print, laminate and trim these cards. Use them as flashcards to help your students subitize. (Recognize how many without having to count.) Flash a card and have students call out the number. Switch up the answer game and when you flash a card, have students silently hold up that many fingers. You can see at a glance who is struggling.
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Print, laminate and trim these cards. Use them as flashcards to help your students subitize.
(Recognize how many without having to count.) Flash a card and have students call out the number. You can also ask them questions like: "What is 1 more? What is 1 less? What is 10 more? etc.
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Match the dice to the number.
Trace and write the number.

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Match the dice to the number.
Trace and write the number.


Match the dice to the number word.
Trace and write the word.

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Match the dice to the number word. ; Trace and write the word.

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## Roll and Dot.

Students roll a dice and whatever number that they roll, they put dots on the empty dice next to the matching numbered dice.
This can also be played as a game with 2 to 3 children. Set a timer; students take turns rolling the dice. The first one to complete their sheet, or has the most dots done, when the timer rings, is the winner. You can also have little ones practice making the square shape by having them trace the boxes as they roll those numbers.


The dice are sequenced from 1 to 6 . Some dice are missing their dots. Put in the missing dots to continue the sequence.


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R.oll and Fill.

Make dots in the squares to match the dice you roll, then solve the equation.
Remember, if it is a subtraction equation, you need to put the largest number in the first dice box.


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Print, laminate and snip into puzzles.

Don't follow the square lines, but do zig zag, slant, wavy etc.

This will make it easier for little ones to put them together, as well as practice their puzzle skills.

