

What is a ten?

Objectives: - To help children understand the number ten and how to count by tens



Activity One: Counting by Tens

Materials:

- Ten Frame or Egg Carton (with two cups removed)
- Dry Beans
- Popsicle Sticks

Directions:

- Give your child a bag of dry beans (fewer than 100).
- Invite your child to count out ten beans. Using that set of ten as a reference, ask her/him to estimate how many sets of ten they have in the entire bag.
- Record the estimated amount on a sheet of paper.
- Now let him/her use a ten frame to count out ten beans at a time. After counting ten beans, have him/her arrange the ten beans on a popsicle stick.
- After all the beans have been counted, have him/her compare the actual amount of beans to the estimated amount.
- Discuss how counting in tens helped them find the total amount.

Activity Two: Building Bean Sticks

Materials:

- Dry beans
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue

Directions:

- Have your child place ten dots of glue per popsicle stick. Make at least ten sticks.
- S/he should place one bean on each dot of glue forming a “stick” of ten.
- Create flats of one hundred beans by grouping ten “sticks” together and gluing sticks across the back (see diagram below).
- After sticks have dried, call out numbers and have your child place the correct number of tens and ones in front of them.
- Use the sticks when solving math problems.

