

Numeral Hunt

Math, Science, and Technology



Level: Preschool

Cost: Under five dollars

Mess factor: None

Suggested room in the house: All over the house



During this activity your child will be excited by the idea of a scavenger hunt. Get ready to help your child find all those numbers living in your house!

Your child will experience:

- Names of numbers
- Counting
- What numbers look like



Materials:

- Brown paper lunch bags
- Index cards or paper cut into five small pieces the size of a Post-It note

Directions:

Before you ask your child to play, write one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on each of the five pieces of paper. Place the five numbered cards in one brown bag.

Beginning:



Tell your child in an excited voice that they are going to go on a hunt. Ask the child if he or she know what that means. Explain it means to go and look for something. Give the child the brown paper bag with five pieces of paper in it. Say, "There is something very special in your bag. Reach your hand in and pull out one thing." When the child pulls out a number, say, "Oh you have the number five! Let's go on a number five hunt and see how many we can find in our house!" Great places to look are: oven dials, computer keyboards, clocks, t.v. remote controls, bedroom alarm clocks and food cabinets.

Middle:



Repeat pulling out numbers and hunting until the child has found all the numbers in the bag.

- Be sure to always say the number the child has pulled out.
- Help your child to count the number of ones, twos (and so on) they find.
- After the child pulls the number out, help him or her to count on his or her fingers the correct number.
- Talk about the shape of the number. Say things like "Oh the number one is straight up and down" or "The number five has straight and curvy lines together."

continued on next page



End:

After your child has found all the numbers, give a warning that the hunt is over. If the child enjoyed the activity, let him or her know that tomorrow you will help him or her hunt other numbers in the house or else in the car while you are running errands together!



Cleanup:

Have your child help you find a place in his or her room to keep the bag. That way the child can play the game whenever they want!

Younger children:

- Young children on the toddler level will have a hard time counting the correct number, but the activity can be modified so that they can hunt for colors or shapes.
- Limit the hunt to one room so a young child doesn't get overwhelmed.
- Write on Post-It notes all the numbers, and stick them around the room for easier hunting.
- As the child finds a number, say something like, "Oh you found the number 3. One, two, three!"



Older children:

- After children pull a number, have them write it on a piece of paper.
- Once they write it, let them count out the actual number so they can connect the number to a quantity. Provide small things for them to count, like rocks, shells, or dried pasta noodles.
- Ask simple questions like "What number comes after the one you found?"
- Say "I have 1, 2, and 4. What number am I missing? Can you help me find it?"



Hints:

- If your child is getting overwhelmed or overexcited, limit how many numbers you hunt for.
- Make learning numbers fun by singing a chant to the tune of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt":
 We're going on a number hunt.
 We're going to find some numbers.
 We have to look over it.
 We have to look under it.
 What a beautiful day and we're not scared!



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More!



- Use different opportunities to count with children. Count as you walk up each stair. Count each stroke of the brush as you brush their hair in the morning. Count the number of Goldfish crackers they eat. Just count!
- Label brown paper bags with a number on the outside. Go on a nature walk and find the correct number of things for each bag. For example, find five rocks for the “5” bag or three leaves for the “3” bag.
- Let children dial the phone when making calls. Say the number, point to the number and then let them push the button.
- Read “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” by Helen Oxenbury and Michael Rosen before or after the numeral hunt. Or, for added fun, check out Michael Rosen retelling the story on YouTube.



Special Needs Accommodations:

- **If your children have limited mobility**, hunt in just one room. Place the numbered Post-It notes at a level they can reach.
- **For a child with vision issues**, use a full sheet of paper and write the number with black marker so that the child can still see the numbers.