



Pendulum swing

Construct a pendulum from plasticine and string. The teacher, or a nominated student, holds the pendulum, and the class joins in counting each swing.

Variation

A metronome, if available, could be used to count along with each beat.

Physical activities



Ask individual students to complete such actions as skipping with a rope, bouncing a ball, star jumps or hopping, while the rest of the class counts each action in unison.

Popstick patterns



Distribute a pile of popsticks to the students. Each student is asked to count out five popsticks and use them to make a pattern. Students continue by making different patterns with five popsticks. The students then count the popsticks used for each pattern.



Variation

Use other material such as tiles, coloured paper squares, toothpicks, straws, pattern blocks or unifix blocks to make patterns.



Musical cushions

Place a number of cushions in a circle formation on the floor. Initially, begin with enough cushions so that there is one per student. Ask the students to count the cushions. This activity is played as for traditional musical chairs, with students skipping to music around the cushions. Once the music stops the students quickly sit down on a cushion. After a short period of time allow the students to stand up and then remove one of the cushions. Ask the students to count the cushions prior to playing the music. Continue the music and allow students to skip around the cushions again. Each time the music stops, the students find a cushion to sit on. Any student unable to find a cushion is out of the game.



Pose questions to the students which will encourage predicting and counting skills. For example, present the same number of cushions as children and ask the students to predict what will happen when the music stops.

Encourage determining the number before and after.

Why?

Students need to be proficient in forward number word counting to move to counting on strategies.