

Pretend Mathematical Play Activities

Bowling Alley

In this activity from *ORIGO Stepping Stones Pre-K*, children count the number of bowling pins knocked down.

Preparation:

Each group of children will need:

- 5 sticker dots or strips of tape
(**Note:** Before the activity, place a dot on the floor as a guide for each pin to sit on.)
- 5 bowling pins
(or use plastic bottles a quarter filled with sand)
- 1 ball

Activity:

In the Dramatic Play center, ask the children to pretend they are at a bowling alley. Have each child take a turn at rolling the ball toward the standing pins. If they knock some down, ask the children to count how many were knocked down. After counting the fallen pins, encourage the children to return the pins to the standing position before the next turn. Allow the children to continue to play as time allows.

Pizza Shop

In this activity from *ORIGO Stepping Stones Pre-K*, create the number of pizza slices to match a number symbol.

Preparation:

Each pair of children will need:

- 2 paper plates, cut into sixths
- playdough
- playing cards with numbers 2-10
- basket

Activity:

In the Dramatic Play Center, ask the children to pretend they are working at a pizza shop. In pairs, one child selects a number card from the basket and orders that many slices of pizza. The other child then makes that many slices of pizza, using the playdough as the topping for each slice. Children will reverse roles and continue the activity. During the activity, encourage children to say phrases like, "Three slices of cheese pizza," or "Seven slices of pepperoni pizza."

Ice Cream Shop

In this activity from *ORIGO Stepping Stones Pre-K*, children serve pretend ice cream with one to ten scoops while practicing the cardinality principle.

Preparation:

You will need:

- sand table (or tub)
- wet sand

Each pair of children will need:

- playing cards with numbers 2-10
- 1 ice cream scoop
- bowls of various sizes

Activity:

In the Sand Center, ask the children to work in pairs. Have them decide who will be the customer and who will be the Ice Cream Shop helper. Have the customer select a card and subitize, or count, the dots. They will then order that many scoops of ice cream from their partner, who will in turn, scoop that amount into a bowl. Together, the children count to ensure the number of scoops matches the number on the card. Then, roles are alternated and the activity is repeated.