



Activity Idea

Activity	Tent game
Main Focus	Composition

Resources	➤ Three or four toy bears (or other characters) and a folded card 'tent'
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Activity Outline	<p>The aim of the activity is for children to work out how many are still in the tent when they know the starting number and more go in or some come out.</p> <p>Walk three bears into the tent- check everyone knows there are three in there. Invite children to show three on their fingers. Walk one bear out (they want to play out / need to go home). How many are there now inside? (Ask children to say and / or show on fingers). Lift the tent to see and check.</p> <p>Ask, How did you know? How did you work it out? Do children just know the number, use their fingers, appear to visualise or count the hidden bears?</p> <p>Next try;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three in the tent, two come out. • Three in the tent, three come out. • Two in the tent one more goes in. • One in the tent, two more go in. • Three in the tent again: this time another bear goes in- how many are there now?
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Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase the numbers going out and in, and the total number as children become confident with arrangements to three. ✓ Combine adding and subtracting: Three in the tent: two come out one side and one goes in the other side. ✓ Link number facts to emphasise number composition: four in the tent and one comes out; then four in the tent, three come out. How do they know? ($4-3=1$ and $4-1=3$). Similarly; three in the tent and one more, one in the tent and three more. ($3+1=1+3$) ✓ Make a larger scale tent outdoors for similar activities. ✓ Invite children to record on clipboards the numbers inside and going in and out.
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