



Activity Idea

Activity

Dotty Dominoes

Possibilities for	☑	☑	☑
maths learning	Counting	Composition	Cardinality
	⊠	☑	□
	Subitise	Comparison	Measure
	□	□	□
	Shape	Pattern	Spatial awareness

Resources	 The book 'Ten Black Dots' by Donald Crews Jumbo foam dominoes (or other dominoes including homemade dominoes using 	
	paper and pens) Flashcards for numerals 0-12	

Activity Outline	Read 'Ten Black Dots' by Donald Crews to the children. This book will show the children
	different things that can be made with black dots and different ways that black dots can be counted.
	Introduce the dominoes to the children. Explain that, on each domino, there are three different amounts of dots. To demonstrate this chose a domino with a small amount of dots (the 1 & 1 or 2 & 1 domino). Count the dots on the left side of the domino and explain this is one amount. Next, count the dots on the right side of the domino and explain this is another amount. (Depending on the children's current skills, you might ask them to match the number of dots to a numeral either by writing the numeral or by finding a flash card with the matching
	numeral.) Explain that the third amount is the TOTAL number of dots altogether. To demonstrate this, count all of the dots together.
	Repeat this using other dominoes from the kit to help children's understanding.
	Now it is the children's turn. Give each child a domino. Ask children how many dots are on one side of the domino. Can they tell you? Take note of children who tag each dot with their finger and those who may be able to subitise the dots. Next ask children how many dots are on the other side of the domino. Then ask children how many dots are there all together. Each child should be encourages the answer individually and you can support children to check their answer.
	Repeat with other dominoes. Ask questions to support children's thinking such as; 'Do both of the dominoes have the same number of dots?' 'Which domino has the fewest dots?' 'Which domino has the most dots?'

	'Can you find someone who has a domino with the same number of dots as one of your dominoes?'		
	 Fold the paper in half, glue cotton balls on each side and write the addition sentence on the paper. 2. 		
Extension	✓ Support children to create their own dominoes by using black paper, cotton balls		
Opportunities	and glue following the arrangements of dots on the dice.		
	 Play a game using the dominoes. Divide the dominoes among the children. Place the dominoes facing down. Ask the children to turn one of their dominoes over and count the dots. The child with the highest number of dots wins and takes the dominoes. 		