



Activity Idea

Activity	Mouse Count
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Possibilities for maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The book, 'Mouse Count' by Ellen Stoll Walsh ➤ Ten mice cut-outs for each child and a set for the practitioner (you can also use other manipulatives to represent mice. You should have three mice of one colour/object, three mice of a different colour/object and four mice of another colour/object.) ➤ Cut-outs of a jar for each child (or actual jar/container) ➤ Snake sock puppet or a rubber snake. ➤ Plastic bags with zipper tops (one for each child)
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Activity Outline	<p>Before the activity place 10 mice and the jar in a plastic bag for each child.</p> <p>Explain that today the children are going to be counting mice. Display your mice and jar in a place where the children can see them. Make sure that the mice are arranged in three groups by their colours (or type of object).</p> <p>Read the book, 'Mouse Count', to the children.</p> <p>Using the snake puppet, add the appropriate number of mice to the jar at the appropriate places in the story. When the snake first encounters the three sleeping mice and counts them, count along with the snake as you drop each of the three mice into the jar. Use the three mice of the same colour (object).</p> <p>Before you read on, say: <i>"There are three mice in the jar, I wonder how many more mice the snake will add to the jar?"</i> Because of the groupings of the mice, the children may be able to predict correctly the next number of mice to be added to the jar.</p> <p>When you get to the part in the book where the snake finds four mice, say: <i>"There are three mice in the jar. Now the snake is adding four more mice to the jar. Let's count and see how many three mice plus four mice makes. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Seven mice altogether in the jar."</i></p>
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Then, later in the story, say: *“There are seven mice in the jar. Now, the snake adds three more mice to the jar. Let’s count and see how many are in there now.”* (Count to 10.)
“There are 10 mice altogether in the jar.”

When you get to the part of the book where the mice rock and tip the jar over, do the same with your jar full of mice. In the book, all of the mice tumble out but, when you tip your jar over, only have some of the mice fall out. Depending on how many mice fall out, ask: *“There were 10 mice in the jar. (Amount) mice fell out of the jar. How many mice are left in the jar?”* Have the children count the remaining mice in the jar. Say: *“(Amount) mice remain in the jar. So, we can say, 10 mice take away (amount) mice, leaves (amount) mice.”* Repeat this several times, covering all of the combinations of 10.

Tell the children that now they are going to help you mouse count. Give each child the plastic bag with the jar and the 10 mice. Children can organise these in front of them.

Re-read the story, pausing each time mice are added to the jar so that the children can add the correct number of mice to their jar. Count the number of mice together as they add mice to their jars.

After each deposit of mice, ask the children to count the mice in their jars to make sure that they are counting accurately. Ask questions that will support children to count and problem solve. *“If we have three mice in our jars and we add four mice to our jars, how many is three mice and four mice?”* (You can use your mice as a visual to support children)
“That’s right. We have seven mice in our jars.”

Once the children’s jars are filled with all 10 mice, tip each jar over and start taking away mice from the jar. Ask: *“We have 10 mice in our jars and six mice spilled out. How many mice do we have left in our jars?”* (Four mice.) *“Yes, that’s correct, four mice are left in the jar.”*

Continue until there are no more mice left in the jar.

Extension Opportunities

- ✓ Use every day opportunities for the children to count sets and add and/or subtract objects from the set.