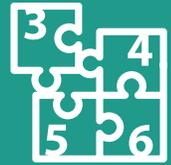


Number



PICK A CARD

Purpose

- To reinforce fundamental operational sense using mental math strategies.

Division – Primary, Junior

Equipment

- Several decks of playing cards (numbered cards only)
- Optional: Pencils and paper (to record math thinking)

Set-up

- Spread cards (face up) around the activity area.
- Divide students into groups of 4-5 and have them stand on the outside of the activity area.

Activity

- Call out a number (e.g., 45) and a math operation (e.g., sum, product).
- On your signal, students take turns moving into the activity area to collect one card at a time.
- Once a student brings back a card to their group, the entire group performs a physical activity movement (e.g., push-ups, squats) the number of times represented on the card.
- Students continue collecting cards and work together using the math operation provided to create an equation that represents the given number (e.g., 45).

Modifications

- Specify which math operations specific groups can or cannot use and/or how many cards must be used (e.g., reach 45 by multiplying three cards).
- Before the start of each round, give students time to devise a strategy for collecting cards.

Questions for Student Understanding

- What considerations did your group make when selecting cards and operations?
- What strategies gave you more success in creating the equation more quickly?
- Which numbers were easiest to reach? Which numbers were hardest to reach? Why?