

Cereal Game for Counting

Materials: Connecting Cubes (2 bags of one color, 2 bags of a different color) / 1 Red bowl / Number Cards (1-30) / Number Line (1-30)

Purpose: Student practices counting to tell *how many*.

Part I: Add One More

Tell student,

“Pretend these cubes are pieces of cereal and the bowl is your cereal bowl. Pick a Number Card and put that many pieces of cereal in the cereal bowl.”

Put the Number Card visibly next to the bowl, as a label.

Add one cube to the bowl while saying,

“If I add one more piece of cereal, how much cereal will we have?”

If student knows the new total without recounting, repeat activity with additional Number Cards.

If student does not know the new total and/or guesses the wrong number, have student count the cubes in the bowl to figure out the answer and explore the Number Line as a way to help predict the answer as shown below.

Show student the Number Line and say,

“The Number Line can help you see what happened when we add or take away a piece of cereal. Point to the number that matches how many pieces we had at first and then how many we had after I added one more.”

Talk about the fact that one number follows the other.

Repeat activity using a variety of Number Cards, encouraging student to use the Number Line as a resource if needed.

Part II: Take one away

Tell student:

“We are going to play the same game, but this time I will take one cube away.”

Pick a number card to get us started."

After student picks a card and fills his/her bowl with cubes to match the number, take away one cube while saying:

"If I take away one piece of cereal, how much cereal will we have?"

If student knows the new total without recounting, repeat activity using a variety of Number Cards.

If student does not know the new total and/or guesses the wrong number, refer to the Number Line and help student as described above.

Repeat activity using a variety of Number Cards.