TUNE IN TO KIDS

WITH MATH

THE HIDE & SEEK TUBE GAME

Why? Playing hide & seek… and learning at the same time. It takes a while for children to remember things in order. This game will help them learn the meaning of words like first, next, and last. Children also will enjoy the suspense involved in this game.

You need: a long piece of string or yarn (30-36 inches) a cardboard tube from a paper towel or wrapping paper roll three different objects to tie on the string (for example: a spool, a small car, a button, a paper clip, a balloon, a small plastic animal or a small barrette) colored construction paper or colored shelf paper

How to play: Tie the three objects on one string leaving some space between each object. Be sure the string is long enough on each end so that you can drop it all the way through the tube and then begin pulling. The objects should be close enough together on the string so that all are inside the tube when the string is pulled to hide them in the tube.

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The Hide and Seek Tube Game (continued)

Talk about the objects. Have your children watch them as they go into one end of the tube. Ask them to guess what will come out of the other end first, next, and last. Repeat several times using different objects. You can change the color of the objects or add new objects. For fun, let them pull the string and you guess.

Here's another idea:

Rather than paper towel rolls, you might use shoe boxes, old cereal boxes, or oatmeal boxes. Also, as your children catch on to this game, add more objects on the string.

Something to think about:

This game seems pretty simple. But children have to understand the idea of ordering before they understand that 1 comes before 2 and 2 comes before 3.

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