

Hungry Numbers



1-18 players

Ages 4+

5-10 minutes

Materials:	
Start with:	Later games:
<p>Numeral cards 0-3</p>  <p>Yellow dice cards 0-3</p>  <p>Pink ten-frame cards 0-3</p> 	<p>Add red triangle dots cards 0-3</p>  <p>Add blue circle cards 0-3</p>  <p>Add orange scattered dots cards 0-3</p>  <p>Add 4-10 cards</p>

Goal of the game: to match numerals cards to their corresponding dots cards.

Setup:

1. Arrange the numeral cards in a line in order from 0-3. At first, arrange the cards together with children. Once children are ready, have them arrange the cards independently.



2. Shuffle the remaining cards together. Place the cards into a face-up pile.

Play:



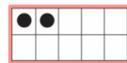
Point to the numeral cards and say, “These numbers are hungry!”



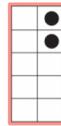
Then, point to the pile of face-up cards and say, “The number cards can eat the dots cards in this pile. But, they can only eat the cards that match their number.”



“Let’s look at the top card in this pile. How many dots are there?”



“Yes, there are two dots. Let’s put this card above the number 2 card to be eaten!”



Play continues as children take turns “feeding” the numeral cards. The game ends when all of the cards in the pile have been “eaten!”

Note: You can use plates, baskets, or other containers in this game. Label the containers with the numeral cards and have children sort the dots cards into the correct containers to be “eaten.”

What children are learning:

- You could use *Hungry Numbers* as a transition activity – e.g., give each child one dot card and have them feed it to its matching numeral before leaving the table.
- This game helps children recognize written numerals (number symbols) and quantities (the number of dots).
- In preschool, children begin to understand how quantities relate to number words and numerals. Support children’s learning by naming numbers (e.g., “two”). This helps children connect number words to written numerals (2) and quantities ()