

Hopscotch by Number

Add active movement to number recognition, counting, and sequencing work for a fit mind and a fit body!



“Development of number concepts does not occur in one lesson,” writes Juanita Copley in *The Young Child and Mathematics*. “It is a continuous process that provides the foundation for much of what is taught in mathematics.” Add this classic activity to your repertoire to keep math lessons fresh and active!

Objective

Promote visual recognition of numbers, counting, and sequencing, which is the ordering of events, through active movement. For example, 1-2-3 is a counting sequence; hop-jump-turn is a movement sequence.

Equipment

Item #13-206 **Hopscotch Playmat and Beanbags**

Directions

1. Have children line up single file behind the Hopscotch Playmat.
2. The first child in line tosses a beanbag and proceeds up and down the playmat in the classic hopscotch style:
 - A. Toss beanbag onto square marked with numeral 1.
 - B. Hop over that square, and land on one foot in square marked 2. (When possible, feet should not touch down on the square with the beanbag on it.)
 - C. Jump onto squares 3 and 4 (a two-footed landing, with left foot in left square and right foot in right square).
 - D. Hop (one-footed landing) in square 5, and so on up the mat.
 - E. At the top of the mat, turn and follow the same pattern back to the beginning, once again hopping over the square with the beanbag on it.
3. The next child then tosses the beanbag onto the square marked with numeral 2, and the process continues.

Options

- To make this activity more challenging, encourage children to play it at a faster tempo.
- To reinforce number recognition, children should eventually say the number aloud as they move onto each square.

