

Finding Complements

Category: Mathematics

ORGANIZATION OF THE EXERCISE

Duration: 2 sessions of 30 minutes

Arrangement: Several groups of 8 children

Age: 3 to 5 years old

Materials: Classroom objects (3 to 5), a box, playing cards

Objective(s): Sharing a number and finding its complement

CONDUCT OF THE EXERCISE

Motivation for the exercise:

The educator explains to the children:

“Today, we're going to play a game. You need to observe carefully and count in your head.”

Exercise:

Session 1

The educator shows 3 pencils and asks the children:

“How many pencils are there?”

The children respond: 3.

The educator continues:

“1 blue, 1 red, and 1 green—that makes 3. Well done!”

He says:

“Pay attention. You're going to close your eyes. I'm going to hide some pencils in the box.”

(The educator puts 2 pencils in the box. 1 pencil remains on the table.)

The children open their eyes and try to imagine how many pencils are hidden in the box.

For example, the blue one is on the table. The educator asks:

“Which pencils are in the box?”

The children respond: the green and the red. That makes 2.

The children may use their fingers to help.

The educator concludes:

“1 + 2 makes 3.”

The educator repeats the exercise with each child.

Extension:

The same exercise will be repeated in the 2nd session using objects of the same color.
(For example, 3 red pencils.)

Session 2

The educator lays out playing cards on the table (numbers: 1, 2, and 3). The children name the quantity represented on the cards. The educator asks the children to give him one or more cards to make the number 3 (for the younger children). The children may give:

- 3 alone
- 2 and 1, or 1 and 2
- 1 and 1 and 1

For the middle classes, the same exercises can be done to find the complement to 4 and 5. The educator offers cards 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the complement of 4, and cards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for the complement of 5.

Assessment of Learning:

The educator draws a quantity of flowers on the slate or in a notebook for the children to complete in order to reach 3 flowers in the nursery class, and 4 or 5 in the middle class.