



Go Fish With Sums

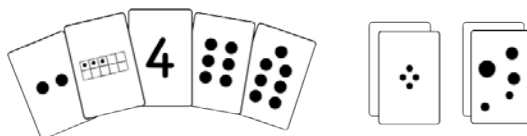
Math Concepts: Counting, adding, number bonds

Materials: Deck of playing cards

Players: 2+

Set up: Set a target sum that your students are comfortable with, remove cards at or above that target from the Number Card deck. Use Number Card decks if you have them. If there are more than two players and you have restricted the numbers significantly, you may need to use several decks. Deal 5 cards to each player and put the remaining cards in a common draw pile.

Play: Players take turns “fishing” for a card whose number will sum to the target sum with a card they already have. For example, a player might ask another player, “Do you have a 4?” If that player has a 4, it is handed over and the original player gets another turn. However, if that player does not have any 4’s, then the player says “Go Fish!” and a card is drawn from the draw pile. If the drawn card matches with a card they have, the player may have another turn; otherwise, the turn is over and play continues to the left.



When a player has a pair of cards that sum to the target sum, those cards are placed in a “book” in front of them. The game is over after all the cards have been put into books.

Goal: The player with the most books wins.

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Ask the students what they know if a player asks for a card. How can they take advantage of that information in the future?

– VARIATIONS –

Bigger Books: Allow players to use more than two cards to create a group of cards that sum to the target sum.

Differences: Use differences – say that two cards match when their difference is a specified target difference.