

Activity: Higher or Lower

You will need: Blank cards/small pieces of paper, counters, a piece of paper saying 'higher' and one saying 'lower' for each player.

Before you start: Cut out the cards. Each player should start with 5 counters.

Instructions:

- Work together to create a set of cards for the game.
- Children choose 3-digit numbers to write on the cards and say the number aloud as they write it (in digits). Alternatively, you might tell children what numbers to write.
- Ask the children to work as a group to put the cards in order and to look carefully at the numbers in the set.
- Next shuffle the cards and place them face down in a row. Turn over the first card and ask a child to say the number.
- Each player then predicts whether they think the next card will be higher or lower than this one. They also decide whether they are going to risk 1, 2 or 3 counters on this prediction.
- Once all players have made a prediction, turn over the next card.
- Players whose prediction was correct 'win' the same amount of counters that they risked. Players whose prediction was not correct lose their 'risked' counters.
- Continue to play in this way.
- The winner is the player with the most counters at the end of the game.



Activity: Higher or Lower



- How do you read/write that number? How do you know?
- What is the value of this digit in this number? (e.g. the value of the 2 in 325 is 2 tens or 20)
- Is this number higher or lower? Explain how you know that.
- Do you think the next number will be higher or lower than this one? Why do you say that?
- What numbers do we still have left to turn over? So how might this affect your prediction?

The mathematics

This activity helps children rehearse reading and writing numbers. It also provides opportunities to rehearse and discuss how to identify which of two numbers is bigger or smaller. This involves looking at the value of each digit in the number (the place value of the digit).

Children may also start to develop insight into the likelihood of different events through this game.

Simplifications:



Use 2-digit numbers.

Allow children to choose their own numbers to write onto the cards.

Challenges:



The adult specifies the numbers to be written on each card.

Ensure that you include numbers that contain several digits the same e.g. 317 and 371.

Ensure that you include numbers involving zeros e.g. 302, 320...