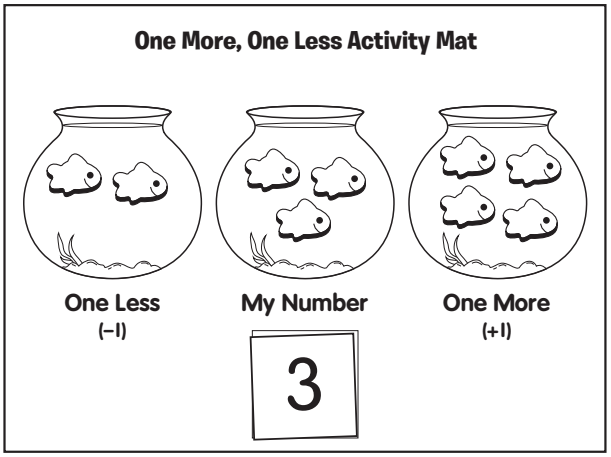
One More, One Less

Objectives

- Children will develop number sense.
- Children will practice simple addition and subtraction.



Materials Needed

- One More, One Less Activity Mat reproducible
- Number Tiles reproducible
- Fish crackers or other fish counters

Getting Started

- Print out the reproducibles and cut out the number tiles. (If the child is just learning to count, you may want to limit the number tiles to numbers through 5.)
- Figure out the quantity of fish crackers/counters you will need so that you have enough for the highest number you're covering, plus one more and one less. For example, if you are going up to number 6, you will need at least 18 (5 + 6 + 7). If you are going up to number 10, you will need at least 30 (9 + 10 + 11).

Activity

1. Show the child the activity mat and point out the fishbowls. Explain what the "My Number" fishbowl means. Have the child select a number tile (for example, 3) and place it in the box below the middle fishbowl. Then have the child count out that many crackers/counters and place them in the fishbowl. Explain what the "One Less" fishbowl means. Show the child three crackers/counters and ask the child to remove one to show one less, or –1. Finally, explain what the "One More" fishbowl means. Give the child three crackers/counters and ask the child how many he or she would have if you gave the child one more, or +1.
2. Once the child understands the activity, invite him or her to try it. Have the child model the activity for you. When you feel the child understands the concept, invite the child to explore on his or her own.
3. While doing the activity, ask questions to expand the child's vocabulary and thinking. Encourage the child to explain how he or she is figuring out "one more" and "one less."
4. Once the child has mastered the activity, try using higher starting numbers and different types of counters.

Extended Learning

For more simple operations activities, try our Flip & Solve Math Boards. These boards are a fun, hands-on way for kids to practice addition, subtraction, and number comparison.

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One More, One Less Activity Mat

One Less
(–1)

My Number

One More
(+1)

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Number Tiles

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10		

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