

Pig and Coins

What should be included:

- Pig
- 10 coins
- Bag (for coins)
- Dominos
- Book – *Learning The Alphabet* (graphic novel)

Play Plan:

Begin by letting your child play with the pig and the coins. It will ask for certain things such as a number or color. This is a very good activity if your child is not familiar with colors and numbers 1-10 and a fun review if he/she already knows these. When your child has had time to play with the pig and the coins try the following activities:

- **Numbers 1-10**
 - First place all the coins in the bag provided and then have your child take the coins out of the bag one at a time, read each number on the coin and then place it number side up where the child will be able to see all the coins at once. When all coins have been taken out of the bag and identified, have your child place the coins in a line in numerical order 1-10.
 - Then have your child cover his/her eyes and you remove one of the coins from the line of coins. Have your child open his/her eyes and see how quickly he/she can tell you which number is missing. *If your child is not very familiar with the numbers 1-10, help him/her count from the number 1 – to the empty spot in the number line and so can name the missing number. For more of a challenge try removing two or three numbers at one time and see how quickly your child can look and name the missing numbers.
- **Dominos**
 - Look at the dominos with your child showing how each domino is divided into 2 sections. Help your child count the dots on each side of the domino separately and then count the dots on both sides of the dominos together explaining how when you combine two small numbers you get a bigger number. Example: 2 dots (on one half of the domino) and 3 dots (on the other half of the domino) but counted together you have 5 dots

*These activities are helping your child to develop a basic understanding of how different combinations of the same numbers make up new and different numbers – a skill he/she will be using in Kindergarten.

Book Activities:

Read the book Learning the Alphabet with your child. Help your child find the pictures it asks to be found, talking about how these items start with the letter shown on that page. Help your child hear that the items start with a particular letter by isolating the beginning sound of each item found. Example: on the first page point to the letter “A” and then say the “a” sound “a/a/apple”, point to the letter “B” and then say the “b” sound “b/b/bus”, and then point to the “C” and then say the “c” sound “c/c/car”.

NOTE: You will find some pictures that the book asks you to find do start with the designated letter, however, they do **not** make the correct sound associated with that letter. Example: for the letter “C” they give you the picture and word “Chair” and the “C” in the word chair does not make the “c” sound. According to how much your child knows about the alphabet and its sounds is how I would handle a situation like this, if your child already knows the sounds the letters make he/she will probably notice that “chair” does not follow the rule (and you can go ahead and tell your child that sometimes when “ch” are together they make a new sound - if your child does not notice then just find the chair and move on to the next picture).

***Your child will be working with the differences in sounds as letters are put with other letters in Kindergarten**

- **Scavenger Hunt** - Have your child find things around your house that start with each letter/sound.
 - First say a letter and make its sound and then look around the area and name 2 or 3 different objects one at a time and asking your child after each object named if it starts with that letter/sound. Example: I am looking for something that starts with “b/b/ B” is it “b/b/ Bench” or “c/c/Couch”? You may have to repeat and emphasize the sound you are looking for and the sound the objects you name so the child can begin to hear the difference – this takes practice 😊
 - If your child understands what he/she is listening for, you can challenge him/her by **not** giving choices of items to choose from and see if he/she can locate items for each letter.

Big Body Movement:

For this activity you and your child will be using the coins and the dominos.

- **Sorting Dominos**
 - You will pick a starting spot and then place the pig’s coins around your play area (far enough away that your child has room to do different movements to get to each coin. Stack the dominos face down at your starting spot. Have your child pick up one domino at a time and count the **combination of dots on both halves** of the domino. When your child knows what number he/she is

looking for, tell your child a movement for him/her to do as he/she carries the domino to the coin that has the corresponding number on it. Have your child leave the domino beside the coin with the number showing the total of dots on that domino and come back to the starting spot. Repeat this process until all dominos have been placed by the appropriate coins. Below is a list of possible movements you can have your child do as he/she is delivering the dominos to the coins:

- Hop
- Skip
- Tiptoe
- Walk with the domino balanced on child's head
- Crawl with the domino balanced on child's back
- Crab walk with the domino balanced on child's belly

- Be creative with your movements 😊
- For more of a challenge give your child a two-step direction to follow before he/she leaves the starting spot with the domino, such as: to do one movement going to the coin and a different movement coming back to the starting spot.
- Once all the dominos have been delivered to the correct coins, take your child to each coin and group of dominos. Look at and talk about all the different combination of numbers (dots) that can make the same number.

***As I mentioned before this is a skill your child will be working on in Kindergarten.**

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!