



Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy
MathStart®

Leaping Lizards

Counting by 5s and 10s

Level 1 Ages 3+

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Counting 5s and 10s is an important skill that helps children master multiplication facts, tell time, and count money

For “The Fifty Leaping Lizards Show!,” you need fifty star-struck leaping lizards. Where will they all come from? The first five rather lazy lizards are found lounging in bunk beds, but the next five arrive in theatrical style, riding unicycles and juggling. The next five are speed-demons in race cars, followed by five more in a hot-air balloon. Colorful graphics keep track of the count, first by showing how counting by 5s works, and then showing how counting by 10s is related. Kids can easily see how each group of 10 lizards divides into two groups. Will there be enough lizards by show time? Illustrated by JoAnn Adinolfi.

DC Standard 4.21, Number Concepts:

Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of number and operations and how they related to one another.

- Start with 50 playing blocks and ask the children to create groups of 5. How many groups of 5 are there? Then put the groups of 5 together in pairs to make groups of 10. How many groups of 10 are there? This can also be done using smaller objects such as buttons or pennies.
- Show the children an analog clock (with hands). Explain how each number on the clock face indicates 5 minutes. Together, count the number of groups of 5 minutes to discover how many minutes are in 1 hour.
- Together, figure out how many fingers and toes are in the group. Try counting first by 5s and then by 10s.
- The 5s & 10s Travel Game: While riding together in a car or bus, ask each player to pick a color. Each car you see of that color is worth 5 points. The first player to get 50 points wins. Play again, changing the rules so each color is worth 10 points.

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