

Pontoon



Background

This is a fun activity for developing the maths thinking brain of children. It is a chance for young children to demonstrate their ability to calculate simple sums and learn about numbers in a positive way.

It is designed to help take fear out of maths and all children to build their numeracy confidence without the worry of making mistakes.

It encourages discovery as children have to find the flowers on their cards. They can then share their knowledge from each card with the group.

Equipment

- A pack of wildflower playing cards

Activity

- A game for 2 - 8 players
- The cards have values: Ace is worth 1 or 11, J, Q, K & 10 are worth 10. The remaining cards are worth their face value
- The best hand of all is worth 21
- (a pontoon is 21 points in 2 cards)
- next best is a 5-card trick totalling 21 or less
- To win each player must then go and find the flowers on their cards

Review

- How easy was it to find your flowers?
- Discuss how easy it is to do sums in your head
- introduce the concept of probability