Subitising Dot Cards

Quick-flash cards for seeing "how many" without counting · ages 3 to 6

What you get

Two sets of 12 cards. **Set A** shows the numbers 1 to 6 in different arrangements, so children learn that four in a square and four in a line are both four. **Set B** uses two colours to show numbers made of parts, like five as three and two. Set B builds the early addition thinking researchers call conceptual subitising.

Getting ready

Print on card if you can, then cut along the dashed lines. Laminate for repeat use. Start with only the cards for 1, 2 and 3, and add more as your child becomes confident.

Four ways to play

1. Quick flash. Show a card for about two seconds, then hide it. Ask, "How many did you see?" Then ask the best question of all: "How did you see it?"

2. Snap. Shuffle Set A. Turn cards over one at a time and say "snap" when two cards show the same number in different arrangements.

3. Memory match. Lay six to ten cards face down. Take turns turning over two, keeping pairs that show the same amount.

4. Build it. Show a card, hide it, then ask your child to build the same pattern with pebbles, buttons or blocks.

Questions to ask

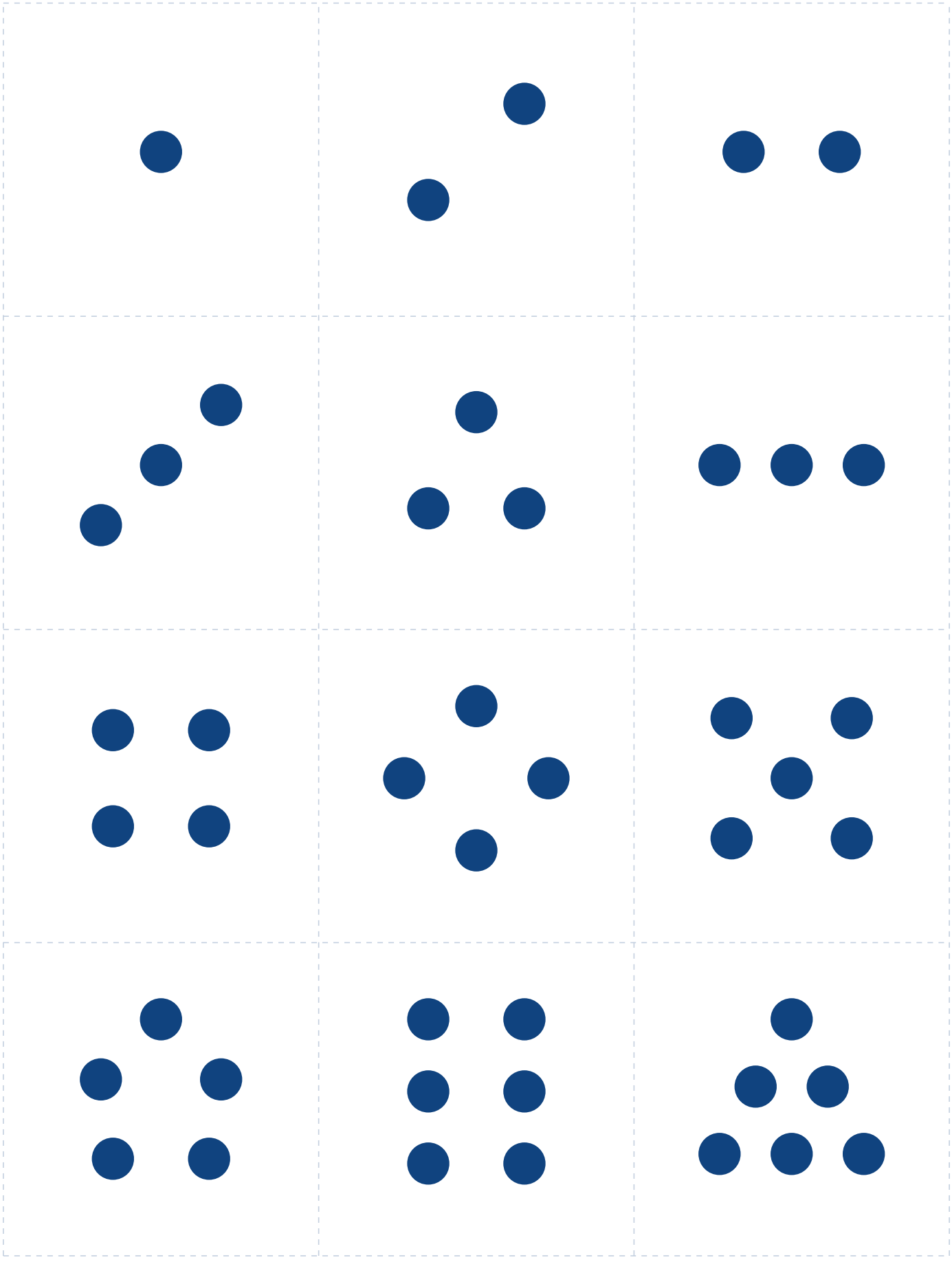
"How did you see it?" · "Can you see a smaller number hiding inside?" · "Which card has more?" · "Can you show me that many fingers?"

Tips for busy and neurodivergent learners

Keep it to three to five minutes and stop while it is still fun. If counting dot by dot keeps happening, make the flash shorter. Let children flash cards for you, and get some wrong on purpose so they can correct you. Movement helps: jump the number, clap it or show it on fingers. Some days will be easier than others, and that is normal.

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Set A · numbers 1 to 6 in different arrangements



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Set B · two colours show numbers made of parts

