



# Family Math Game: Subitizing

Deanna Pecaski McLennan

Subitizing is the ability to “see” and recognize a small number of objects and know instantly how many there are without counting. Subitizing tells you what number you roll on a six-sided die—most adults no longer have to count the dots after playing board games for a while. It’s an important foundational skill for children’s development of number sense.

Try this activity with your child to expose them to subitizing!



## Materials

**A five frame** (helps children show quantities 1 through 5)

**Counters** (shells, coins, etc.)

## Five Frame Subitizing

Step 1

Start the game by showing your child the quantities 1 through 5 in the five frame. Put one counter in the first box and say “one.” Now, it’s your child’s turn to show one. Next, put a counter in each of the first two boxes and say “two.” Take turns to five.

Step 2

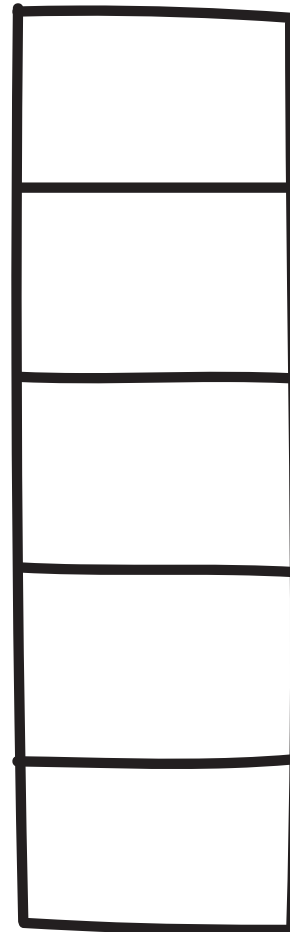
Play the game again, with your child going first.



## Five Frame



one counter per frame, starting at the top



Don’t worry if your child doesn’t catch on to subitizing right away. The important thing is to have fun and enjoy math together. **TYC**

For more fun activities to do with your child at home, visit [mrsmclennan.blogspot.ca/2016/09/family-math-bags.html](http://mrsmclennan.blogspot.ca/2016/09/family-math-bags.html)

naeyc  
for families

Visit <http://families.naeyc.org> to browse articles about outside time, reading together, and more!

This message is meant to be cut out, photocopied, and sent home with children as a resource to parents! It is also available online at [NAEYC.org/tyc](http://NAEYC.org/tyc).