

Missing Treasure

Adding and taking away

You will need:

- Treasure chest/ bowl
- 10-15 gold coins 'treasure'
- 'Loot' bag
- Optional- Pirate hat or eye patch (homemade is great)



Taking it forward:

- Make gold or silver coins with the children.
- Decrease the number of coins for less-experienced children.
- Have a treasure hunt within your home. Hide 10 supersized gold coins and challenge your children to beat the timer to return them to the chest.

What's in it for the children?

This is an ideal game for exploring the language of adding or taking away, and to explore different strategies. The decrease in the amount every time coins are taken reinforces the understanding that a number gets smaller when an amount is taken away.

What to do:

1. Begin by asking the children to fill the chest with the coins, counting each item as it is added.
2. Choose a child to be a pirate. Using props is optional.
3. All other children close their eyes whilst the pirate steals some.
4. Can we find how much treasure is missing? Count how many is left and then encourage them to work out how many is left using different strategies, for example, using 10 objects removing the number of objects that is the same as how much treasure we still have, then count what is left, explaining this must be how much the pirate took; or by counting forwards from the number that remains to the number there was to begin with, keep track on your fingers. Model this with your fingers.
5. Ask the pirate to empty the loot bag, counting out the stolen treasure to check our answer.
6. Begin the game again.