

Christmas Tree Match Sets Cards

These cards are designed to help children practice counting out quantities from zero to thirty and matching them to the correct numerals.

To Prepare:

Copy the trees onto card stock and cut each one on the dotted line. Be careful as you cut, since the lines on each page are close to the same spot, but are not *exactly* in the same spot on each card! I advise you to cut them one card at a time. Another way to do this activity would be to cut them "puzzle style" rather than on the straight line, so that they would be self checking. The reason that I did not mine this way, though, is because I wanted them to rely on their counting skills rather than their puzzle matching skills to figure out which number goes where. My guess is that if I give them the option of just matching one puzzle shape to another rather than counting out all of those ornaments, they will try to match the puzzle shapes instead of count!

The Task:

Children are supposed to look at the number of ornaments on the tree and count them all. Then they are supposed to find the star with the matching numeral for that many ornaments on the tree. I encourage children to recognize each set of ornaments in the boxes as ten and count on from there. When they see that there is more than one box of ornaments, then they are to count "Ten, twenty," and then count on from there.

You may wish to start with just one set of cards and introduce them to your class in a small group setting. Then, as the children become more proficient at the task, consider duplicating a few extra sets so that the children can work on this individually or in pairs. If you copy more than one set, you should probably copy them on different colored paper to keep them separated more easily. In my class, when children work on this sort of thing individually, I have them space themselves out on the floor so that they have plenty of room to spread out the cards without "bumping" into one another. These cards are large, so it may be necessary to have them work in pairs anyway, if space constraints are a concern. I would have liked to have made them smaller, but I was afraid that children would have enough trouble counting up all of those small ornaments as they were!































































