

Count in a Circle How-to

This game can be used as a time filler or math practice. It can also be used in spelling or language classes. I will give variations of the game at the end.

Steps for playing:

1. Have students stand and form a circle facing in toward each other. Select a counting sequence to be practiced 10 numbers in the sequence.
2. Have the students start counting around the circle one by one until the last number in the sequence is reached. When the last number is reached, all students clap and that student is out and sits down on the floor in the middle of the circle.
3. Continue around the circle by starting the counting sequence over again until another student reaches the number at the end of the sequence; everyone claps and that student sits in the center with the first student. If someone says an incorrect number or wasn't paying attention to know where the group is in the sequence then they are also out and sit in the center. In case of mistakes then continue with the counting sequence starting with the next number in the sequence for the next student.
4. Continue repeating the sequence until only one child is left standing and the rest are seated in the center of the circle.

For example: for the counting sequence 1-10: the first student says "one," the next student says "two" and so on until the tenth student gets to "ten." At this point everyone claps and the tenth child sits in the center of the circle. The eleventh student starts over with "one" and so on. If a student said "five" and was supposed to say "6" or is not able to give an answer because they weren't paying attention then they sit down and the next student will start with "5" and students continue with the sequence until "10" is reached and that student sits down. Then the sequence begins again from "one".

Possible counting sequences for forward counting:

- the ones (1-10)
- the teens (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)
- skip counting by any number to practice multiplication skills (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20)
- Starting at any given number and then ending at any given number is good practice for counting 1-100 (starting at 21 and counting to 35, etc.)
- fractions or decimals

Possible counting sequences for backward counting:

- the ones (10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)
- the teens, 20-11

Other Content Area Suggestions:

- spelling words (teacher says a word and students go in order each giving a letter for the word and the last letter sits down)