

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYING CARDS

'Card sense' is number sense

Do you want your child to be able to reason, to memorize, to calculate probabilities and to develop number sense and coordination, all while having fun? Well, pull out a deck of cards and let the learning begin!!

All these important skills listed above can be developed and fine-tuned by playing with that inexpensive pack of cards in the junk drawer.

The best thing about cards, with games like Go Fish to Crazy Eights, Hearts, and Whist, is that there's always an element of luck involved. That means children can beat their parents fair and square and feel good about themselves.

A SIMPLE GAME FOR TWO YOUNG PLAYERS

- ➔ Take two packs of cards, without jokers, and shuffle them.
- ➔ Divide the pack between two players and have them sit opposite each other, holding their packs face down.
- ➔ One player puts the top card from his pile face up on the table between them.
- ➔ Players take turns putting down cards, one at a time, until a face card or ace appears. When this happens, the other player must put down 1 card for a jack, 2 cards for a queen, 3 cards for a king, and 4 cards for an ace.
- ➔ If no face card or ace shows up while the player is putting down these cards, the other player collects the entire stash and starts another pile from scratch.
- ➔ If a face card or ace shows up, the other must put down cards until he or she can pick up the pile.
- ➔ Continue in this fashion until one person has all the cards.

Resource: *The Little Giant Book of Card Games*, Margie Golick et al. Sterling Publishing, 2003

