

Ten Empty Bottles Standing in a Row

What you need:

- Empty plastic drinks bottles.
- Number labels.
- Pebbles.



What you do:

- Collect ten bottles and number the bottles from one to five using each number twice. Ask the children to place the correct number of pebbles in each bottle. Say you want four pebbles and ask a child to pick out a bottle or bottles containing four pebbles altogether. Find all the possible ways of making four. Choose another number and explore all the possibilities for this number.

Questions and prompts:

- Is one and three the same as three and one?
- Can you think of another way of making four?
- How could we record the pairs that we have found?
- How can we be sure that we have found all the possibilities?

Extend the play:

- Add more pebbles to each bottle to give them some weight and use the bottles as skittles! Roll a ball and see how many are scored. If the number one bottle is knocked over, one pebble is taken out of it, if a bottle with two on it goes down two pebbles are taken out etc. The pebbles can then be used to keep track of each child's score.