

Skip-Bo Math Mania!

Materials Needed: One deck of Skip-Bo cards, Paper and pencil, Optional: Calculator (for checking answers), Optional: Small whiteboard and marker

Lesson Activities:

Introduction (5 minutes)

"Today, we're going to use one of your favorite games, Skip-Bo, to practice our math skills! Remember how in Skip-Bo you need to play cards in order from 1 to 12? We'll use those numbers to do some fun math challenges." Briefly review the goal of Skip-Bo (building piles 1-12).

Activity 1: Sequencing Warm-up (10 minutes)

1. Shuffle the deck. Draw 15 cards and lay them face up.
2. "Can you arrange these cards numerically as fast as possible? Let's time it!"
3. Discuss: Which numbers were missing? Were there duplicates? How is sequencing important in math (e.g., number lines, order of operations)?

Activity 2: Arithmetic Draw (15-20 minutes)

Remove the "Skip-Bo" (wild) cards or assign them a value (e.g., 0 or 1). Shuffle the remaining numbered cards (1-12).

- **Addition Challenge:** Draw two cards. Add the numbers together. (e.g., Draw 7 and 4. $7 + 4 = 11$). Repeat 5-10 times.
- **Subtraction Challenge:** Draw two cards. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number. (e.g., Draw 9 and 3. $9 - 3 = 6$). Repeat 5-10 times.
- **Multiplication Challenge:** Draw two cards. Multiply the numbers. (e.g., Draw 6 and 8. $6 * 8 = 48$). Repeat 5-10 times.
- **Challenge Option:** Draw three cards and perform mixed operations (e.g., Draw 3, 5, 2. Calculate $(3 + 5) * 2 = 16$ or $3 * (5 - 2) = 9$). Use paper/pencil or whiteboard to show work.

Activity 3: Target Number (10 minutes)

1. Choose a target number (e.g., 24, 30, or 18).
2. Draw 3 or 4 cards from the deck.
3. "Using addition, subtraction, or multiplication with these card numbers, can you reach the target number?" (e.g., Target 24. Draw 6, 4, 1. $(6 * 4) * 1 = 24$. Draw 8, 3, 1. $8 * 3 * 1 = 24$. Draw 10, 2, 2. $(10 + 2) * 2 = 24$).
4. If the target can't be reached, draw new cards or choose a new target. Try 3-5 rounds.

Wrap-up/Assessment (5 minutes)

- "What math skills did we practice today using the Skip-Bo cards?" (Sequencing, addition, subtraction, multiplication).
- "Which activity was your favorite? Which was the most challenging?"
- Quick check: Ask a few mental math questions using numbers 1-12 (e.g., "What's 7 times 6?" "What's 11 minus 5?" "What's 9 plus 8?"). Observe fluency and accuracy.
- Discuss how understanding numbers and doing calculations quickly can help in playing Skip-Bo better.

Extension (Optional)

- Play a short game of actual Skip-Bo, focusing on the number sequences.
- Introduce basic probability: Count the total number of cards and the number of a specific card (e.g., 5s). Ask, "What is the chance of drawing a 5?"