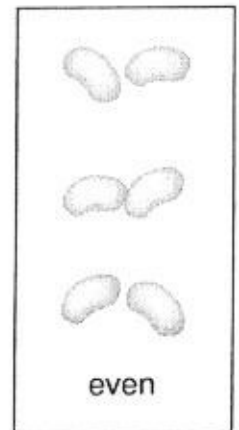


Odd or Even?

This activity will help your child understand odd and even. Odd and even are important ideas for understanding fractions, algebra and other advanced mathematics.



You will need

- some dried beans or other small things
- a paper that is divided into two areas, an ODD area and an EVEN area
- a strip of paper with the numbers 1 to 20 on it

What to do

1. Have your child take some beans (just a few to start).
2. Count these beans with your child.
3. Help your child to put the beans in pairs to find out if there is one bean left over or not.
4. If there is one bean left over, then the number of beans is odd. If there are no beans left over, then the number is even. Do you have an odd number of beans or an even number of beans?
5. If you have an odd number of beans, pick them up and put them on the odd side of the paper. On the paper beside the pile of beans, write the number of beans. If you have an even number of beans, pick them up and put them on the even side of the paper, and write the number of beans beside the pile.
6. Take a new number of beans, and do the same thing again.
7. After you have done several groups of beans, get out the strip of paper, and colour the odd numbers red and the even numbers green (or any two colours that you'd like).
8. Ask your child if he or she notices a pattern in the colours. (The pattern is: odd, even, odd, even, odd, even, and so on.)