

SPOT THE CALCULATION DICE GAME #1

Spot the Calculation is a great game for getting children to think and try out different ways of combining numbers and operations to make a total. It helps to develop perseverance and basic arithmetic skills with small numbers.

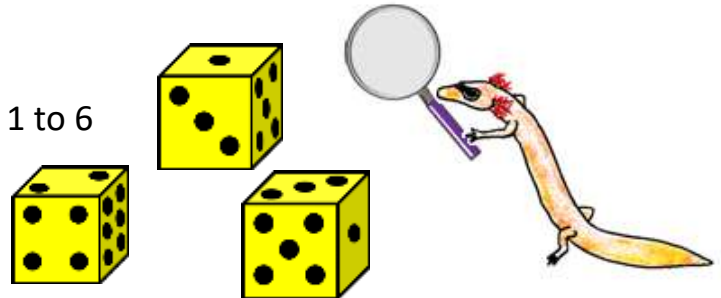
Age range: 2nd Grade+

Number of players: 2

Learning: Add, subtract and multiply numbers 1 to 6

You will need

- 3 dice
- Some pieces of paper



Instructions

- Player 1 throws all three dice in front of Player 2.
- Player 1 then uses the numbers on the dice and the operations +, -, and x to make any number they wish. Player 1 must record their calculations secretly on a piece of paper. Player 1 then tells their number to Player 2.
- Player 2 has to work out how to use the numbers on the dice to get the same answer as Player 1. Player 2 records their calculations on a piece of paper.
- Both players then compare their calculations.
- How to score:
 - o If Player 2 managed to make the same answer as Player 1, even if they used different operations, or changed the order of the numbers, then they score 10 points.
 - o If Player 2 got the wrong answer, or gives up, they score nothing.
 - o If Player 1 got the wrong answer, then Player 2 automatically scores 10 points (even if they gave up).
- Now Player 2 rolls the dice and uses the numbers and +, - and x to make any number, and it is Player 1's turn to guess.
- The winner is the first player to reach 50 points.

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EXAMPLES SHOWING HOW TO PLAY

Example 1: Player 1 rolls a 3, 4 and a 6, and then makes a 27 using $6 \times 4 + 3$.
Player 2 makes 27 using $4 \times 6 + 3$ so Player 2 scores 10 points.

Example 2: Player 1 rolls a 1, 2 and 5, and then makes an 8 using $5 + 2 + 1$.
Player 2 makes an 8 using $(5 - 1) \times 2$, so Player 2 scores 10 points for having the correct answer but using different operations.

Example 3: Player 1 rolls 4, 2, and 6 and makes 9 incorrectly with $6 + 4 - 2$. Player 2 gives up and cannot make the total. Player 2 gets 10 points because Player 1 was incorrect.

Variations

- Playing with 2 dice makes this game much easier.
- Playing this game with 4 dice makes this game harder.
- Try playing with 8 or 10 sided dice makes the game harder and brings in different math facts to use.
- At higher grades, children can start bringing in negative numbers, and decimals in their answers.
- You can play this game with more than 2 players, and the first player to get the same answer as the dice roller scores 10 points. Other players could get 5 points if they get the same answer as dice roller but take a little longer.