



# Scoop It!

*estimation, counting*

## Materials

- 3 empty baby food jars
- 3 metal pie plates
- 3 spoons
- 1 cup of bird seed
- 1 cup of sand
- 1 cup of walnuts in a shell

## What to do

1. Put one jar and one spoon next to each pie plate. Pour sand into one plate, walnuts into another, and bird seed into the third plate.  
**Safety Note:** If any of the children have nut allergies, do not use walnuts for this activity.
2. Ask the children to estimate how many spoonfuls of sand it will take to fill the jar.
3. Have a child spoon sand into the jar as the rest of the children count.
4. When the first jar is full, ask the children to guess how many spoonfuls of walnuts it will take to fill the next jar. "Will it take more or less than the sand?"
5. Have a child spoon walnuts into the jar as the rest of the children count.
6. Do the same thing with the third jar and the bird seed.

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## More to do

**Outdoor Play:** Provide a variety of buckets, scoops, shovels, and so on for children to experiment with in the sandbox.

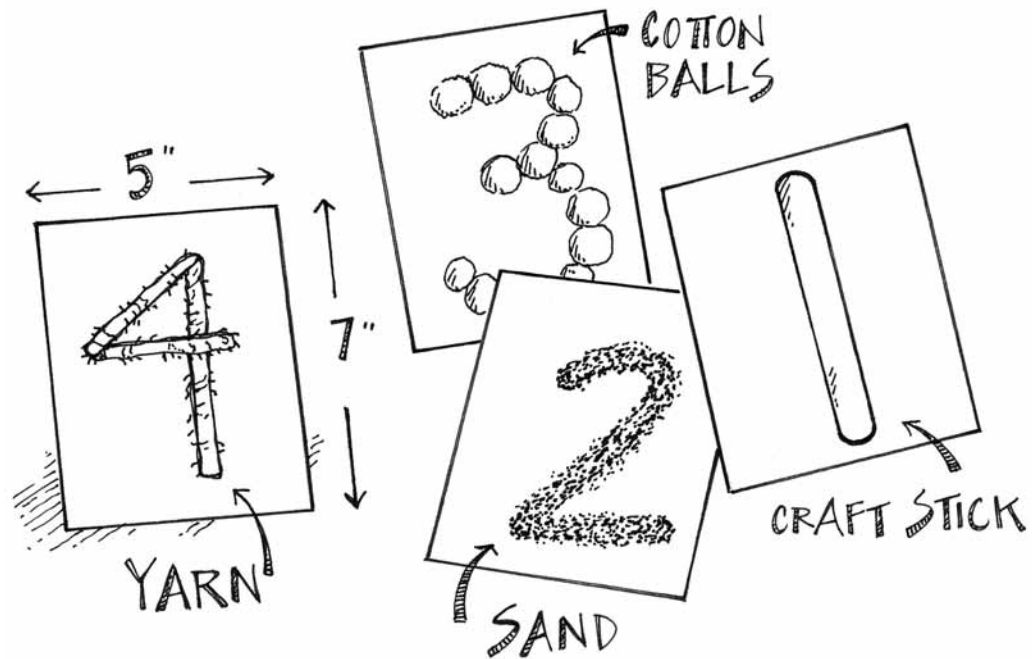
+ Cassandra Reigel Whetstone, Folsom, CA

# Sensory Alphabet

*numeral recognition*

## Materials

- scissors
- light card stock
- markers
- glue
- textured materials (pipe cleaners, craft sticks, Q-tips, toothpicks, yarn)



## What to do

1. Pre-cut cardstock to about 5" x 7". With a marker, write a numeral on each card.
2. Each child picks a number card.
3. Have textured materials available, such as yarn, cotton balls, toothpicks, Q-tips, pipe cleaners, sand, colored salt, cornmeal, sandpaper, and craft sticks.
4. Children select one type of the textured items to glue onto their numeral.
5. When the cards have dried, the children can trace each other's numerals with their fingers.
6. Have the children describe their number card to the other children. Ask the children to describe how their numerals feel. "Do they feel soft? Rough?"

## Related books

*In the Rain Forest* by Maurice Pledger  
*Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt

+ Monica Hay Cook, Tucson, AZ