Cups of Counters: At Home

Division Practice

From the Developing Number Concepts Series by Kathy Richardson

Goals:

- Recognize the process of sharing and grouping (partitioning) as division
- See relationships between multiplication and division problems
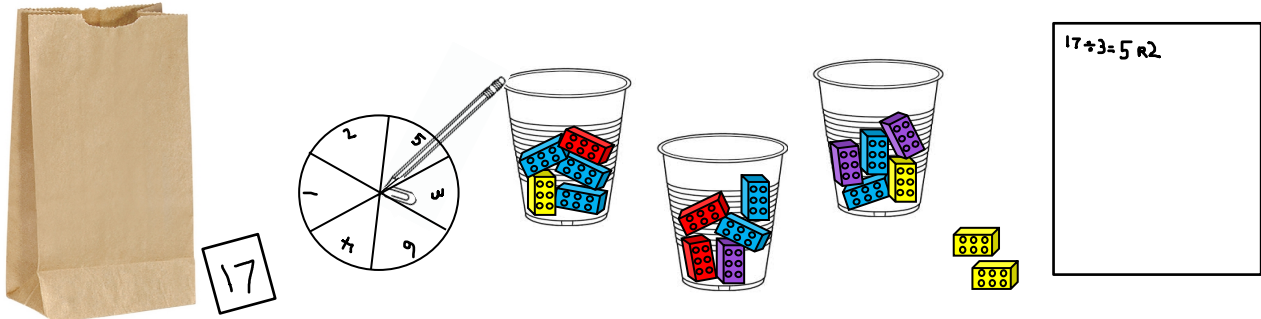- Solve division problems

Materials:

- Objects to count: such as Legos, pennies, macaroni, pompoms
- Cups
- Numeral cards in a bag (11 – 30)
- Die or homemade spinner
- Paper

Procedures:

1. The child draws a number from the bag and counts out that many objects.
2. The child then rolls the die or spins the spinner to determine how many cups to get.
3. The child thinks about how many counters would go equally in each cup and how many leftovers there would be.

    For example: This child drew the number 17 and counted 17 Legos. Then she landed on 3 and set out 3 cups. She found out each cup would hold 5 an there would be 2 leftovers.

What to watch for:

- Does the child understand the answer is the number in each cup plus a remainder if there is one?
- How does the child share the counters? Does he put one at a time in each cup or does he put a group of objects in each cup and then adjust if there aren't enough or too many?
- Does he use multiplication to figure how out many should go in each cup? For example, " I have to make 3 groups. I know 3 groups of 4 would be 12 but I have 15. I'm going to try 5 and see what happens.

Extensions:

Use numbers to 10 on a spinner or put larger numbers in the bag.