How Many in the Cups?: At Home
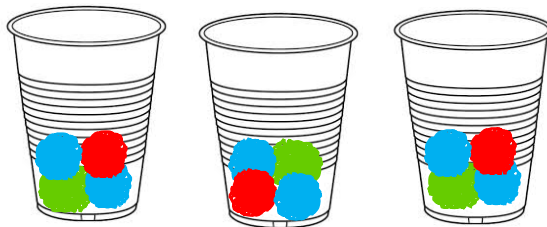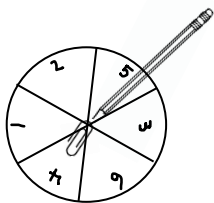
Multiplication Practice

Goals:

- Recognize multiplication as a process of counting equal groups
- See relationships between multiplication problems

Materials:

- Objects: such as Legos, pennies, macaroni, pompoms
- Cups
- Dice, homemade spinner or numeral cards in a bag
- Paper

Procedures:

1. The child rolls the die, spins the spinner, or takes a number out of a bag to determine how many cups to get.
2. The child then rolls the die, spins the spinner, or takes a number out of a bag again to determine how many counters go in each cup.
3. The child determines how many in all the cups and writes an equation to match.
   For example: This child landed on 3 and got 3 cups. Then he landed on 4 and put 4 pompoms in each cup.

$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

What to watch for:

- How does the child find out the total? Does he know 3 groups of 4 are 12? Does he count by 4s? Does he know 4 and 4 is 8 and count on 4 more? Does he count all of them?

Extensions:

Use numbers to 10 on a spinner or on numeral cards in a bag.
Ask related problems such as: "You found out that 3 cups of 4 equals 12. What if you had 6 cups of 4?"
"You found out 3 cups of 4 equals 12. What if you had 3 cups of 5?"