

Using a twenty bead string with young children activity 1

Whole class activity

You will need:

- A teacher sized 20 bead string
- Children's sized 20 bead strings (optional)

Show the class the 20 bead string. Ask the children to tell you anything they like about the beadstring, e.g. that it has only red and white beads, it is long, etc.



Show the children that the bead string has twenty beads on it and that the red and white colours are there to help you count. Count the first group of red beads and establish that there are five in total. Repeat this with the next group of beads and so on. Draw out from the children that the beads are in colour groups and that the groups are groups in fives.

Push the beads to one end of the string. Start to count, slowly with the class, using the red beads first from one to 20, moving only one bead at a time.

Observe the children as you are counting. Pay attention to the teens numbers, which young children struggle with.

Remember, for every time you count on you must count back.

Starting at the other end of the bead string and this time with the white bead first, count back from 20 moving beads back again one at a time.

Isolate key numbers such as 6. Ask the children questions, e.g. "How many can you see?" "Did you need to count all the beads?" Encourage the children to count on from five.

Show one extra bead. Ask "How many beads are there now?" "How did you know?" "Did you need to count all the beads?"

You may wish to use the 20 bead string flash cards with your children.