

ACTIVITY 5.2

Groups of 10

Prepare bags of counters of different types. Bags may have toothpicks, buttons, beans, plastic chips, connecting cubes, craft sticks, or other items. Children have a record sheet similar to the top example in Figure 5.4. The bags can be placed at stations around the room, or each pair of children can be given one. Children dump out and count the contents. The amount is recorded as a number word. Then the counters are grouped in as many tens as possible. The groupings are recorded on the form. Bags are traded, or children move to another station after returning all counters to the bag.

If children have difficulty writing the number words, a chart can be displayed for students to copy from (see Figure 5.5).

Variations of the "Groups of 10" activity are suggested by the other record sheets in Figure 5.4. In "Get This Many," the children count the dots and then count out the corresponding number of counters. Small cups in which to put the groups of 10 should be provided. Notice that the activity requires students to address quantities in a way they understand, record the amount in words, and then make the groupings.

The "Groups of 10" activity and the variations in Figure 5.4 start where the students are and develop the idea of groups. "Fill the Tens" and "Loop This Many" begin with a verbal name (number word), and students must count the indicated amount and then make groups.



Assessment Note

As you watch children doing these activities, you will be able to learn a lot about their base-ten concept development. For example, how do children count out the objects? Do they make groupings of 10 as they go? Do they count to 10 and then start again at 1? Children who do that are already using the base-ten structure. But what you will more likely see early on is children counting a full set without any stopping at tens and without any effort to group the materials in piles. A second-grade teacher had her students count a jar of small beans. After they had recorded the number, they were to ask for plastic cups in which to make cups of 10. Several children, when asked how many cups they thought they might need, had no idea or made random guesses.

Name _____		
Bag of _____	Number word _____	Tens Singles
Toothpicks		Tens Singles
Beans		Tens Singles
Washers		Tens Singles

Get this many.	Write the number word.

	Tens _____ Ones _____

Fill the tens.
Get forty-seven beans.
Fill up ten-frames. Draw dots.
Tens _____ Extras _____

Loop this many.
Loop <u>sixty-two</u> in groups of ten.
Tens _____ Ones _____

FIGURE 5.4
Number words and making groups of 10.

Number Words		
eleven	ten	one
twelve	twenty	two
thirteen	thirty	three
fourteen	forty	four
fifteen	fifty	five
sixteen	sixty	six
seventeen	seventy	seven
eighteen	eighty	eight
nineteen	ninety	nine

FIGURE 5.5
A chart to help children write number words.