COMPONENT TURNOVERS

This is a quick and easy game suitable for players of all ages. You can find many more teaching games about components in Chapter 1 of Overcoming Difficulties with Number and in The Dyscalculia Resource Book.

TEACHING POINTS

This game, for two or three players, is designed to provide practice in splitting and recombining small quantities made out of two or more components. Children should first be taught about partitioning and building small numbers so that they can play this game without any counting in ones, on their fingers or otherwise.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO PLAY THE GAME

Two ordinary 6-sided dice
A pack of digit cards made up of four cards for each of the numbers 2 to 9 inclusive.

RULES

Players are each dealt 10 cards from the shuffled pack. Before play starts, players arrange their own cards face up in a row, in number order, with any duplicate numbers side by side.

Players take turns to throw both cards at once, announce the total aloud, and then turn over as many or as few of their own cards as necessary to match the total amount of the throw. Once turned over, these cards are out of play. Any player who is unable to match the amount of the combined dice must miss that turn.

The round ends when one player has turned over all his/her cards. The overall winner is the player who has won most rounds after 3 or 5 rounds of the game.

Component Turnovers

This player has chosen to turn over the numbers 3 and 6 to match the 9 of the dice throw. S/he could just as well have chosen to turn over the single 9, or the 3-card combination of 2, 3 and 4.

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Because it is so difficult to find digit cards that differentiate between the 6 and the 9 when they are upside-down, you may want to make your own cards. Laminate the whole page before cutting into cards. Four of each digit between 1 and 9 inclusive make a standard pack of digit cards. Zeros and/or tens are optional.

If the paper you use is too thin the number may show through. This is why the numbers below are shown as outlines. If there is still a problem with show-through, instead of using a thicker card which is not so easy to laminate, print a whole page full of repeated words (e.g. ‘digit cards’) on the reverse of each sheet.
BOX FOR DIGIT CARDS

Use the same amount of enlargement (if any) as for the digit cards.
Print off onto card. Cut around the outline. Score then fold along all the lines.
Secure the two marked tabs with glue.