



## Add three cards

This is an activity for an adult and 2 or 3 children.

You will need:

- a pack of playing cards
- pencil and paper optional to record scores

Remove the coloured cards (King, Queen, Jack), Jokers and any card game rules which may have been included in your pack of cards.

You will need only the Ace to 10 cards. Ace has a value of 1 in this activity.

Shuffle the cards well and then place three cards face up on the table.

Ask one of the children to mentally add the three cards together.

## Add three cards

For example:



The cards dealt here are... an ace, which is worth 1, 4 and 9.

Encourage the children to move the cards as they add them.

Ask the children to explain why they have chosen particular cards to add first.

Ask the other children if they have a different strategy?



9 + 1 make 10.  
I can add 4 easily to 10.  
The answer is 14.

Deal 3 cards for another child and repeat.

## Add three cards

For example:



The cards dealt here are... 4, 7 and 5.

I'm going to add the two biggest numbers together (5 + 7) to make 12 then add 4 by counting on. The answer is 16



4 and 5 are near doubles. I can double 4 and add 1 to make 9. I can partition 7 into a 1 and a 6. I'm going to add the 1 to the 9 to make 10 then add 6. The answer is 16

## Add three cards

For example:



The cards dealt here are... 3, 8 and 8.

I'm going to add 3 to 8 to make 11 then add 8 more to it to make 19. The answer is 19.



I'm going to double 8 to make 16. Now I'm going to add 3 more to 16. The answer is 19.

## Add three cards

Strategies may include:

- doubles
- near doubles
- multiples
- pairs of numbers that make 10
- rounding up and compensating, e.g. add 9 by adding 10 then subtracting 1.

Variation

Increase the number of cards to 4, 5 or 6 with KS 2 children.