

A handful of rings

Learning opportunities

- * Understanding and practising the sharing out of items equally between two people

Links to the Early Learning Goals

- * Mathematics – Numbers

Equipment and resources

Plates, hoop-like crisps (you will need ten per child).

Activity

Children must wash their hands thoroughly, under supervision, before taking part in this activity. Ask the children to sit on the floor, in pairs, facing one another, with a plate of ten 'hoops' between them. One child should hold up her outstretched fingers on one hand. The other child, 'the sharing child', should also hold up the fingers of one free hand. With the other hand, she may pick up the 'hoops', one at a time, and slide one onto one finger of her partner's hand, then one onto one finger of her 'free' hand, saying each time, 'one for you, one for me', until all ten 'hoops' are used up. The pair may then eat the 'hoops'. You should now replace the ten 'hoops', after which the other child can become the 'sharing' child.

Extension

Make a picture frieze of six hands for the wall, showing the progression from an empty hand with 'no' hoops, to a hand with five 'hoops'. Encourage children to match the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 to the pictures.

Discussion

Ask the children if they have noticed their parents sharing out the food when friends and relations visit. Talk about giving one item to each person or trying to cut a cake to make pieces of the same size for everyone.

