

FOUR IN A ROW

Four in a Row games provide skills practice. The object is to get four spaces across, down, or diagonally. Players earn spaces by completing computation problems.

Why?

- Attain skills so that problem solving is not derailed by lack of skills fluency.
- Practice in a game format

Players: 2

Materials: Board game, 2 sets of colored counters (for the game board), 2 small objects (e.g. cubes, paperclips, cut up paper) that will cover numbers in Box A and Box B

Launch Activity: Use Four in a Row: Addition to introduce the rules and procedures of the game. Play as a class (teacher is “Player 1” and class is “Player 2”).

- To start the game, Player 1 (teacher) chooses one number from Box A and one number from Box B, and puts small objects on them.
- Player 1 finds the sum of the selected numbers from Box A and Box B and puts her colored counter on the sum on the game board. Player 2 confirms that the answer is correct. If it is not correct, then Player 2 gets the square.
- Player 2 moves ONE of the markers (either from Box A OR from Box B), finds the sum, and puts her marker on that sum on the game board. Player 1 confirms that the answer is correct. If it is not correct, then Player 1 gets the square.
- Play continues until one player gets four spaces in a row – across, down, or diagonally.

Accountability/Follow up Ideas:

- Ask students to make an “Answer Key Grid” of all possible sums prior to playing. An Answer Key Grid template is provided here.
- Encourage students to create their own Four in a Row games. First make an answer key grid, then make a game board. A Four in a Row Game Board template is provided here.

Here are some other ideas for creating Four in a Row games.

Box A	Box B	Game Board
Dividend	Divisor	Quotient (whole number)
Percent	Whole quantity	Part of quantity
Factor (number)	Factor (binomial)	Product

GAME: FOUR IN A ROW (ADDITION)

Players: 2

Materials: Board game, 2 sets of colored counters (for the game board), 2 objects (e.g. cubes, paperclips, cut up paper) that will cover numbers in Box A and Box B

Object of the Game: Players alternate choosing addends from Box A and Box B to create sums. They cover sums on the game board. The winner is the first player to get four in a row.

Box A: Addend		
2	3	5
6	9	12

Box B: Addend		
4	6	8
14	20	30

Game Board: Sums					
20	11	39	16	28	19
26	7	17	22	33	25
18	11	12	17	32	12
36	23	23	32	13	35
14	9	29	10	42	13
15	6	16	20	20	10

FOUR IN A ROW: ANSWER KEY GRID

Box A		

Box B		

(Rule)		Box A					
Box B							

GAME: FOUR IN A ROW (_____)

Players: 2

Materials: Board game, 2 sets of colored counters (for the game board), 2 objects (e.g. cubes, paperclips, cut up paper) that will cover numbers in Box A and Box B

Object of the Game:

Box A		

Box B		

Game Board					