

You could download and print off one of the observation sheets linked with this activity.

Resources

Play dough/plasticine/modelling clay/salt dough

Way of timing one minute e.g. egg timer, clock with second hand, 'pinger'

Activity

How many snakes can you make (in one minute)?

How many snakes can you make (before I say 'stop')?

Questions to ask

How many snakes do you think you can make in one minute?

How many snakes did you make?

Who has made the most?

Do you think you would make the same number of snakes next time?

Possible observations

Accurate counting

Use of vocabulary associated with number e.g. more than, less than, most, least ...

Understanding when a period of time starts and ends

Use of vocabulary associated with time e.g. next, before, longer, shorter, sooner ...

Follow-up

A very simple version of snakes and ladders game using children's own snakes

Build a 'house' for a snake.

Some children might predict how many snakes they could make in 2 minutes.

You could time other 'events' such as threading beads on a piece of string, travelling somehow outside ...

Acknowledgement

Adapted, with permission, from ideas in Kate Tucker's book 'Mathematics Through Play in the Early Years', published by Sage ISBN 978-1-84860-884-9