DATA GATHERING AND DISPLAY ACTIVITIES

After trying these activities, decide which activities are appropriate for the kids you work with. How would you change each activity to make it more appropriate?

FOR ADULTS

A. What are the chances that a head will come up when you flip a coin?

B. What are the chances that two heads will come up when you flip two coins?

C. What are the chances that two heads will come up when you flip one coin two times?

D. What are the chances that a 6 will come up when you roll one die?

E. What are the chances that a 7 will come up when you roll two dice?

F. What are the chances of drawing a red card from a deck of cards?

G. What are the chances of drawing an ace from a deck of cards?

H. What are the chances of drawing a red ace from a deck of cards?

I. What are the chances of drawing two red cards?

FOR KIDS (TRY THESE TODAY)

The main idea for all of these activities is for the kids to discuss the results of collected data. Try to answer: Why did this happen? What is going on?

1. Where's the Cookie?
You'll need nine cups, with labels 1 through 9.
Put a small cookie (or penny or block...) under one of the cups. Have kids guess where the item is. Wrong guesses get a clue: the item is under a cup with a bigger/smaller number.

2. Tally Counting
You'll need a die or a spinner, and a list of the possible outcomes.
Have kids roll the die and identify the number on the face. Someone then puts a tally mark on the list next to the outcome. Repeat many times.

3. Tiles in a Bag
You'll need some different tiles (or beans or blocks...)
Put a selection of ten tiles in a bag (say 2 red, 3 green, 5 blue). Guess what you'll draw. Refine the guess by predicting what you'll draw.

4. Match My Spinner
You'll need two spinners (or dice...).
One person spins. The next person tries to match the first result. What are the chances that there is a match?

FOR KIDS

5. Cats and Dogs:

You'll need four containers, labelled "Cats", "Dogs", "Both", and "None".

-- Have each student put one counter (or bean or block...) in one of the containers, depending on the pets they have at home.

-- Have each student put a number of counters in each of the containers, one for each pet they have at home.

-- Have each student put one counter in one of the containers, depending on what type of pet they most like.

Discuss the differences in the results.

6. Junk Sorting

You'll need a collection of stuff.

Have kids sort the stuff in two groups. Then three, four groups.

7. Family Sizes

Have each student tell how many family members there are living at home. Make a chart of how many parents, siblings, etc, of the whole class.

8. Weather Chart

Make a display of the weather each day. Have kids predict what will happen tomorrow.

9. Make a Graph

Have students collect data on some interesting topic, and display the results.

Possible topics:

-- pets
-- guesses (of beans in a jar, or time until lunch, ...)
-- opinions (eg, how old is a grown up?)
-- likes and dislaikes
-- favorite toys
-- comparison of physical aspects of kids
-- siblings and parents
-- what you eat
-- how much does something cost?
-- how much can you hold in your hand?

10. Order by Height

Have kids stand in order of height. Find the middle and divide the group two. Ask:

-- Are there more girls or boys in any one group?
-- More older or younger?
-- ...