**What is Subitizing?**

Subitizing is the ability to ‘see’ a small amount of objects and know how many there are without counting. Subitizing is what tells you what number you roll on a six sided dice – most adults no longer have to count the pips after playing board games for a while.

Pronounced “ooo”. “Subitizing is great!”

*The Basics of Subitizing*

Subitizing is taught because it includes visualization in learning and creates a better understanding of math and its relationships. Subitizing is a method that saves time through faster recognition of items rather than individual counting.

Young children should begin by learning the patterns of dots up to 6. Students should also associate the dot patterns to numbers, numerals, finger patterns, bead strings, etc. You can then extend this to patterns up to 10 when they are ready.

Perceptual subitizing - knowing instantly the number of dots rolled on the dice.

For example: We want children to learn that

• there are 5 dots in this pattern or arrangement;

• five is more than four;

• five counters, no matter how arranged, still retains the same numerical quantity.

Conceptual subitizing – breaking down the entire group of dots into smaller groups and still not counting the dots individually but recognizing groups of dots and adding them together.

For example: This means a student looking at this pattern doesn’t usually see 7, but instead 1 and 6, or maybe 2 and 5.

*How to Help Kids Practice Subitizing Skills*

There are many everyday ways to help strengthen subitizing skills, as well as ways to help easily practice subitizing:

* Playing Dominoes
* Playing games like Yahtzee or made up games using dice
* Playing card games such as War