How Many? A Counting Game

Background:
The idea for this game was initially based on the book, *How many? A counting book* by Christopher Danielson. In this book, each page includes an interesting image and readers are simply asked the question: How many? No other information, like how many objects? Or how many eggs? is provided. This allows readers to make up their own mind as to what part of the image to count.

Materials: Picture Prompt

WALT: Identify quantities and explain our thinking

WILF: Accurate counts of quantities and clear explanation of thinking

Summary:
- Students are shown a picture prompt
- Students identify quantities in the image and explain thinking
- For example, I see 13 triangles, or I see 5 yellow shapes
- These suggestions are then checked, and further suggestions are shared

Variation:
The teacher (or leader) can nominate the amount and the students can suggest the object. Alternatively, the teacher (or leader) can nominate the feature or object, such as blue, and the students can suggest the quantity. This activity will work well in a remote learning environment as the image can be shared on the screen. Also, asking students to locate suitable images (or take photos) which later could be used as a prompt in class, could be an interesting homework task.

General Advice:
All students should be able to participate in this task. The focus is more on encouraging students to explain their thinking or reasoning to prove that their suggested count is accurate. If students do make a counting error, asking them to share their thinking should allow them time to correct any mistakes. Asking other students how many of the nominated object they see, will allow the student who made the error to receive instant feedback.

More Information:
- Danielson, C. (2018). *How many? A counting book*. Portland, Maine: Stenhouse Publishers.
- Talking Math with Your Kids (Website): https://talkingmathwithkids.com/
- The following hashtags on Twitter often include sample picture prompts that could be used for a How Many? discussion:
    - #tmwyk
    - #unitchat
    - #howmany

CHOOSEMATHS