

Number Nonsense

Here are a couple "tricks" that are easy and fun to do but that will seem baffling to the people in your youth group and make you appear to be a genius. Try these sometime just for fun. It is best to memorize the procedures and carry them out as if you do this all the time.

1. Choose a number: Suggest that someone in your group (or the entire group) choose a number between 10 and 100. You must not be told this number. Use these directions to find out what the number is. (The number 44 is used as the secret number in this example.)

Direct the individual or group to do the following:

- Double the secret number 88
 - Add 1 89
 - Multiply by 5 445
 - Add 5 450
 - Multiply by 10 4,500
- (tell this number aloud)

Then you subtract 100 from the result without saying anything (100 from 4,500 is 4,400). Next, strike off the last two digits (00) and announce the number (44!). Practice this a few times with your family and friends.

2. When was I born? Announce that you can guess the age and the month of birth of anybody in the group. Select a volunteer. Give her or him a pencil and a sheet of paper and the following instructions:

- Write down the number of the month you were born (August) . . . 8
- Double it 16
- Add 5 21
- Multiply by 50 1050
- Add your age (16) 1066
- Subtract the number of days in a year (365) 701

You call for the result and secretly add 115, making the total 816. The first one or two digits indicate the month, and the last two indicate the age. Immediately announce August as the month of birth and 16 as the age.

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Write down the number of the month you were born.

(August).....	8
Double it.....	16
Add 5.....	21
Multiply by 50.....	1050
Add your age (16).....	1066
Subtract the number of days in a year (365).....	701

The leader then calls for the result; he secretly adds 115, making the total 816. He immediately announces August as the month of birth and 16 as the age. The first one or two digits indicate the month and the last two indicate the age.

• **Secret Number.** This simple trick furnishes fun as the kids try to figure it out. Ask someone to select a number, keeping it a secret. Now ask them to double it, then to multiply by five, and then to tell you the total. Immediately you are able to tell them the secret number. All you have to do is to knock off the

final digit, for what you have really done is to get the number multiplied by 10. Example: The number selected is 13. Multiplied by 2 it is 26. Multiplied by 5 it is 130. Knock off the last digit and it is 13, the secret number. This may be worked on a crowd, the teller staying outside the room while the group decides on the secret number.

Here are several tricks that are easy and fun to do, but seem baffling to the kids in your youth group and make you appear to be a genius. Try 'em sometime just for fun. It's best to memorize each procedure, and pull them out as if you do it all the time.

• **Choose a Number.** Suggest that someone in your group (or the entire group secretly) choose a number between 10 and 100. This number is not to be told to the leader. He proceeds to find out what the number is. Let's say that the number is 44.

Number selected.....	44
Double it.....	88
Add 1.....	89
Multiply by 5.....	445
Add 5.....	450
Multiply by 10.....	4500

The leader now subtracts 100 from the result without saying anything. Thus 100 from 4500 is

4400. Strike off the last two digits and announce the number is 44.

• **The Age of Your Pocket Change.** Have someone in your group think of her age (without telling anyone). Have her double it, then add five, and then multiply by 50. Now add to that number the amount of pocket change someone else has in his pocket. Now have them subtract the number of days in a year—365—from that number. At this point the number can be disclosed to the entire group. To this number you (the leader) secretly add 115. The age of the person will be the first two digits. The amount of change will be indicated by the last two digits.

The person's age.....	15
Double the person's age.....	30
Add 5.....	35
Multiply by 50.....	1750
Add pocket change (37 cents).....	1787
Subtract 365 days in the year.....	1422
(this number is given to group)	
Secretly add 115.....	1537

In this example, you announce that the age is 15 and the amount of change is 37 cents.

• **When Was I Born?** The leader announces that he can guess the age and the month of birth of anybody in the group. He gives the volunteer the following instructions: