Handfuls
(suitable for all grades)

Basic instructions:

1. Child takes a handful of counters or similar materials and places them in a pile on a table.
2. They estimate how many counters they have.
3. Now sort or group them in a way that you can find out how many you counters you have without counting by ones (eg groups of 2, rows of 5, in 10s).
4. Encourage finding the total and then arranging that total in different ways (eg 16 may be 10 and 6, 4 groups of 4, 2 groups of 8 etc)

Some adjustments or extras

- Pose questions of child's grouping and have them explain how much they have and how they know it.
- Draw and record what they have made however they like
- Describe how many rows or groups or record as a formal number sentence eg 4 x 4 = 16)
- Use 10 frames to assist -->
- Put the total on a number line - the number line does not have to start at 0 - eg 0--------------------------16--------20)
- Rounding up/down to the nearest 10 or five
- Split the amount into groups based on fractions, eg, 12 can be 6 + 6 or ½ **or** 3 x 4 to make thirds
- Add the fractions together, eg ½ + ⅓ of 12 = 6 + 4 = 10