

## **GUESSING YOUR CARDS!**

**Math skills:** Even and odd numbers  
**You will need:** A deck of cards (with no jokers)  
**Difficulty level:** 1

**Introduction:** Tell your students that you can read their minds and guess what cards they are going to pick up.

**What to do:** Split a deck of regular cards (without the jokers) into two piles. Shuffle each pile well and face the piles down. Ask a volunteer to choose one card from each pile, show them to the class (without seeing them yourself), put the cards back into the piles and shuffle them again. Now, with just a quick look you will tell them the two cards that they chose!

### **How it works:**

- ◆ Before the "show", separate the even cards from the odd cards. In one pile (even) you will have 2,4,6,8,10 and the queen. In the odd pile you will have 1,3,5,7,9, the Jack and the King.
- ◆ Shuffle both piles separately.
- ◆ Put both piles of cards on the table and ask for a volunteer.
- ◆ Ask the student to shuffle both decks (separately) face down and put both decks on the table.
- ◆ Ask the student to pick up one card from the first pile, show it to the class (without showing it to you) and put it on the table.
- ◆ Ask the student to do the same thing with the second pile.
- ◆ Collect the cards that the volunteer chose and left on the table facing down and put each one of them in the opposite group. (i.e. put the card from the even pile in the odd pile and the odd card in the even pile)
- ◆ Ask the student to shuffle again (separately!)
- ◆ Take a quick look at the cards, and pretend to really concentrate while you place the two correct cards in front of your class!

### **Why it works:**

In the odd pile you will find only one even card, and in the even pile you will find only one odd card. Those cards must be the cards your volunteer had chosen.