Handfuls

Students take a handful of objects (counters, blocks, pasta, beans etc) and holds them in their hand. They predict how many they are holding. They then arrange/organise their objects so that you can tell how many there are just by looking and thinking (without counting).

Students then can explain to someone why they did it that way. Continue arranging the same number of objects in different ways.
2 Minute Challenge

2 people, counters (beans, pasta, blocks, jelly beans) die

Start with a large pile of counters. Partner 1 rolls a die over and over again while the partner 2 takes the rolled amount each time from the pile and groups the counters in a countable collection. This continues for 2 minutes. After 2 minutes partner 2 completes the same task. When the time is up, each person has to add their total to see who collected the most counters.

Aim: form easily countable groups rather than counting by 1’s.