Mystical Numbers

**THE TRICK:** The magician leaves the room while the boys and girls pick a number from 1 to 20. When the magician comes back, the assistant calls out several numbers. When the correct one is called, the magician identifies it without any hesitation.

**THE SECRET:** The first number called by the assistant is the clue. If the assistant, for example, says, "Is it five?" the correct number will be the fifth one called. Another way of giving the clue—one that is harder to detect—is that a two-digit number is called first and the magician adds up the digits to get the answer. For example, if the assistant calls out 14, the magician adds the 1 and the 4 to get 5; thus the fifth number called will be the correct one.