Examples of possible solutions to the three number game:

$$5 + 3 + 1 = 9$$

$$1 \times 7 + 2 = 9$$

$$4 \times 2 + 1 = 9$$

$$2 \times 6 - 3 = 9$$

also, in a 'v' shape: $\quad\quad 2^3 + 1 = 9$