



Did You Know?

Did you know that counting objects in a group is the beginning of important school readiness skills? Once your child can count the objects in groups (or sets), they can compare different sets by counting the items and deciding which set has “less than” or “more than.” This ability helps to build math skills in counting, addition, subtraction, and even algebra.

Books with Counting and Comparing Numbers

Read books about or using numbers aloud with children. This will help with school readiness while developing math skills. Here are some books that teach children about counting and comparing numbers:

- *Five Creatures* by Emily Jenkins
- *Quack and Count* by Keith Baker
- *Bear Counts* by Karma Wilson

At Home

During snack time, ask your child to count the number of snacks. For example, ask your child to pick three red fruit snacks for you and five for them. Next ask, “Who has more, and who has less?” Eat some of the snacks. Then ask them to count again and repeat the process.

While You Are Out

In the grocery store: Ask your child to choose a specified number of vegetables or fruit (at first, try between one and five pieces). As they count, put the pieces in your bag or shopping cart.

In waiting rooms: Write a numeral from one to five (or through 10) on sandwich bags using a permanent marker. Bring the numbered bags and an additional bag full of small items such as cotton balls or Q-tips. Ask your little one to count the objects and place them in the correct bag.

**These activities have been adapted from the Family Child Care Mentoring Project, Somerset County Judy Center.*

School Readiness Matters

Counting items and comparing quantities are skills needed for school readiness and future math skills. For more information about school readiness and how you can support your child, please follow the links below:

[Add it Up](#) [Add it Up \(Video\)](#) [Count by Numbers](#)