

Family Activity Time Series: Counting



Did You Know?

Did you know that being able to count and recognize written numerals are two important school readiness skills? Children also need to know which numbers come before and after. These skills are the building blocks for future math skills.

Books with Counting

Read books aloud often with your child. Quiet time together with a book creates a special time for you and your little one. It also promotes school readiness skills. Here are some recommendations for books that teach children about counting.

- *10 Black Dots* by Donald Crews
- *Chicka Chicka 1,2,3* by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson
- *Feast of 10* by Cathryn Falwell
- *One Duck Stuck* by Phyllis Root

At Home

Show your child that counting is part of daily life. Count change together. Let your child help you in the kitchen and count aloud when measuring ingredients. Play board games that involve counting spaces. Collect a variety of items and practice counting together.

While You Are Out

In the grocery store: Read aloud numbers on price tags as you shop. Ask your child to call out the numbers they recognize. Count up to that number and ask them to tell you the number that comes next.

In waiting rooms: Ask your child to count your fingers while you count along. Then stop counting and point to the next finger. Ask them, “What number comes next?” and “What number came before?”

In the car or bus: Sing “[This Old Man](#)” as you travel. Pause between verses and ask your child, “What number is next?”

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

School Readiness Matters

Counting and recognizing numbers are skills needed for school readiness and future math skills. Check out how you can support your child with these valuable resources:

[Count by Numbers](#)

[Teaching your Four-Year-Old Numbers and Counting](#)

[Kitchen Math: How Mealtime can Support Kids’ Number Sense](#)