

Storytime Takeout

Counting

Teaching children to count involves more than helping them just learn the numbers. It involves helping them understand the meaning of numbers.

Children need many opportunities to not only count things, but to learn the words for numbers, as well as to learn to read and write numbers.



You can help your child learn about numbers and counting in many ways.

- Make pointing to and counting objects part of your daily routine.
- Get your child to count with you.
- Ask the question, “How Many?”
- Read number and counting books, making sure to point and count the objects on each page.

Manipulatives

Manipulatives are objects which can be touched and moved by your child to introduce or reinforce a mathematical concept, such as counting. They provide a concrete way to bring meaning to abstract mathematical ideas.

Some examples of counting manipulatives you can find right in your home are blocks, paper clips, toy animals, clothes pins, silverware, cups, straws, cotton balls, checkers, dominoes, playing cards, stickers, crayons, cereal pieces, animal crackers, chips, and candies. Use your imagination!



There Were Ten In The Bed

There were ten in the bed, (hold up 10 fingers)
And the little one said, 'Roll over, roll over',
So they all rolled over and one fell out.
(tuck one finger down)

There were nine in the bed...
(repeat the rhyme, counting down until you get to 1)

There was one in the bed
And the little one said,
"Alone at last!"

Five Green, Speckled Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs (hold up five fingers)
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs,
Yum, yum! (rub tummy with other hand)
One jumped into the pool (tuck one finger down)
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs,
Glub, glub!



Check out these counting books!

- *Counting* by Merrilee Liddiard
- *Excavator's 123* by Sherri Duskey Rinker
- *Race Car Count* by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
- *Numbers* by John J. Reiss
- *Counting Dinos* by Eric Pinder
- *Count with Little Fish* by Lucy Cousins
- *1 Big Salad* by Juana Medina
- *I've Got an Elephant* by Anne Ginkel
- *5 Little Ducks* by Denise Fleming
- *Grandma's Tiny House* by JaNay Brown-Wood
- *Counting Coconuts* by Wendi J. Silvano
- *Butterfly Counting Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Build a Burrito: A Counting Book in English and Spanish* by Denise Vega
- *Ten Hungry Pigs* by Derek Anderson



Future Success

In addition to learning about counting and writing numbers, increase your child's future mathematic success by including these concepts:

- Compare groups of objects using words such as *same*, *different*, *more than*, *less than*, and *one more*.
- Use the words *first*, *second*, *third*, *fourth*, and *last* when talking about things in a line or a series.
- Recognize, name, and draw different shapes, and combine shapes to make new or bigger shapes.
- Arrange objects according to size from largest to smallest or smallest to largest.
- Create or copy patterns, predicting what will come next.
- Sort objects into groups by attributes (the same color, the same shape) or by class (animals, buildings, cars) discussing how the objects are the same.