

Counting

Rationale:

Counting is an early numeracy skill. Counting with your child helps her learn the words for numbers and the right sequence for numbers ('one, two, three, four'). For example, she might learn that 'five' is the number of fingers she has on one hand and 'ten' is how many fingers she has on both hands. This helps her understand that 'ten' is more than 'five'. Basic numeracy skills like counting help your child develop more complex numeracy and maths skills.

Age range information

3-6 years

What you need

Counting skills can happen anytime and anywhere. You do not need special equipment or books.

How to do it

Everyday experiences can be the best way to give young children fun and relaxed ways to get started with counting. Try these ideas for counting with your child on a trip to the market:

- Choose something your child is interested in to count on the way to the market – for example, cars or dogs. Choose something you know you'll see lots of so she does not get bored waiting for the next one to appear.
- At the market, ask your child to help you count fruits or vegetables as you put them in a bag. For example, 'We need six apples. Can you help me count to six?'
- Count steps as you walk. For example, count how many steps it takes to get from the apples to the bread. You could also ask your child to guess and then see if she was right. See if she gets closer the next time she tries.
- Count the people who are lining up in front of you to pay. Count again as each one pays and leaves so your child can see the number getting smaller.

Adapting for children of different ages

Keep numbers small for your younger child. Help her associate numbers with words – for example, 'We need six apples. Can you show me six with your fingers?'

Your older child will enjoy harder challenges. Try skip counting by twos – for example, 'We need eight apples. Two, four, six ...'.



Recommended Reads by the National Library Board

Recommended Reads

- [Counting with Barefoot Critters](#)
- [Abigail](#)
- [10 Hungry Rabbits](#)

Engage your child with simple activities at home! Check out some of these things you can do together:

- [Ladybug](#)
- [Join the Dots](#)
- [Find the Sharks](#)
- [One, Two, Buckle My Shoe](#)
- [Five Little Ducks](#)