

# Numbers and Counting

## When should my child start learning numbers and how to count?

- Between the ages of 1 and 2 years old, your child should start to:
  - Understand what numbers mean (ex: “how many”).
  - Count, but typically out of order and skipping some numbers.
- Between the ages of 2 and 3 years old, your child should start to:
  - Understand the concept of one and two.
  - Tell someone how old they are by holding up their fingers.
  - Better understand number sequence and that one number comes after another.
  - Use one-to-one correspondence (ex: place one item in each space of an ice cube tray).
  - Count orally to three.
- Around school ages, these skills improve significantly, and your child will start to:
  - Identify and count quantities of 1-4 around 3 to 3.5 years old.
  - Identify number symbols of 1-5 around 4 to 5 years old.
  - Count orally to 10 with one-to-one correspondence around 4 to 5 years old (ex: pointing to each object as they count them).
  - Count orally to twenty around 5 to 5.5 years old.
  - Read numbers 1-19 around 5 to 5.5 years old.
  - Read and write numbers 1-5 around 5 to 5.5 years old.

## Why is learning numbers and how to count important?

- It helps us to understand the meaning of numbers.
- It lays the foundation for all other math skills that are learned later in life.
- We use numbers and simple math skills every day in life.

# Home Activities to Work on Learning Numbers and Counting

## Count Objects

- Work on counting objects in your home.
- You can use any item in your home for this activity.
- Try using a container with different compartments, such as an egg carton, ice cube tray, or muffin tin, and have your child place an item in each compartment while counting.
- To make this activity a little more difficult, write numbers in the bottom of each compartment. Then have your child place the appropriate number of items in each compartment.
- Remember to supervise children at all times when playing with small objects, as it can be a choking hazard.



## Egg Carton Number Counting with Popsicle Sticks

- Use an empty egg carton and cut slits into the bottom.
- On the sides of the egg carton, write numbers.
- Use popsicle sticks and write numbers on them or draw dots for different numbers.
- Have your child match the correct popsicle stick to the correct number on the egg carton.
- Encourage your child to count as they complete this activity.
- If they are not able to match numbers, just use blank popsicle sticks and work on counting as they place them in the egg carton.



## Count the Ice Cream Scoops

- Use a piece of cardboard or paper and draw ice cream cones with numbers on them.
- Above the ice cream cones, draw circles to resemble ice cream scoops. The number of ice cream scoops should match the number written below on the ice cream cone.
- Use small items such as cotton balls, pom poms, buttons, bottle caps, pouch tops, or dry food items for your child to place on the ice cream scoops.
- Encourage your child to place the correct number of items on the ice cream scoops. Remember to count along as they complete this activity.
- This is a great way to learn how many each number represents.
- Remember to supervise children at all times when playing with small objects, as it can be a choking hazard.



## Count and Clip

- Cut up cardboard into square pieces.
- On each piece of cardboard, write a number in the middle with the appropriate number of dots around the edges.
- Use chip clips or clothespins for your child to place on the cardboard.
- Encourage your child to place the correct number of clothespins on each piece of cardboard by placing them on the dots.
- Remember to practice counting out loud throughout the activity.
- This is a great way for your child to learn how many each number represents.



## Pizza Number Game

- Save the pizza box the next time you order a pizza.
- Inside the pizza box, draw the outline of a pizza with numbers written for each piece of pizza.
- With other pieces of cardboard, make pizza slices. You can even color them to make it look more like pizza.
- Have your child place the pieces of pizza inside the box.
- To make this more challenging, draw pepperoni on the pizza and have your child count the pieces of pepperoni on each slice and place it on the correct number inside the pizza box.
- Encourage your child to count along as they complete this activity.



## Number Match Drawing

- On a piece of paper or cardboard, draw circles at the top. Start with numbers 1 to 5 and then advance to higher numbers later on.
- On the piece of paper or cardboard, write the numbers at the bottom.
- Have your child match the circles to the numbers below.
- Encourage your child to stop and count the circles each time.
- This is a great way for your child to learn how many each number represents.
- This is also a great activity for your child to start working on drawing lines.





## Count and Thread Number Cards

- Make your own number cards with cardboard and pasta noodles.
- Glue or tape the pasta noodles to pieces of cardboard to display numbers 1 to 5.
- Write the number next to the pasta noodles.
- Use pieces of pipe cleaner, string, yard, or a shoelace and have your child thread the pasta noodles.
- Encourage your child to stop and count the noodles on each card.
- This is a great way for your child to learn how many each number represents.
- This activity also works the small muscles in the hands to improve fine motor skills.



## Count and Thread

- Use a piece of string, yarn, a shoelace, or a pipe cleaner to thread items on.
- Write numbers on a piece of paper or tape and place it on the string, yarn, shoelace, or pipe cleaner.
- Find items to thread such as cereal (Fruit Loops, Cheerios, etc.), beads, buttons, pasta noodles, cut up toilet paper or paper towel rolls, or anything else in your home.
- Encourage your child to thread the appropriate number of items according to the numbers.
- Remember to supervise children at all times when playing with small objects, as it can be a choking hazard.



## Number Match Wheel

- Use a piece of cardboard and cut out a circle.
- Draw lines across the cardboard to make a wheel with 10 sections.
- Number the sections 0-9 or 1-10.
- Use clothespins or chip clips to draw on. You can draw directly on these items or draw on small square pieces of cardboard and then glue or tape it to the clothespins or chip clips. You can write the number on these or draw small dots to resemble dice.
- Encourage your child to place the correct clip on the wheel.
- This is a great way to learn numbers and count and also works on fine motor skills by using the clothespins or chip clips.



## Number Matching Activity

- Use a piece of paper or cardboard for this activity.
- Use items in your home such as plastic cups, cupcake liners, empty containers, water bottle caps, or anything else you may have. Trace these items onto the paper or cardboard as many times as you would like.
- Number the tracings on the paper or cardboard.
- Then number the items you traced.
- Have your child match the numbers.



## Match and Count Board

- Keep your empty plastic water bottles for this activity.
- Cut off the top part of your plastic water bottles.
- Glue the tops of the water bottles onto a piece of cardboard.
- Write numbers on the cardboard next to each water bottle.
- You can also write numbers on the water bottle caps as well.
- Find small items that can fit inside the bottle opening such as cereal, puffs, beans, buttons, beads, etc.
- Encourage your child to twist the bottle caps open and place the appropriate number of items inside the bottle.
- You can also have your child match the numbered bottle caps to the correct bottle number.
- If you want to incorporate matching colors into this activity, you can draw colored circles on the cardboard before you glue the water bottles down. Then use colored paper or stickers on the bottle caps.
- This activity is great for learning numbers and counting.
- Twisting the bottle caps is also a good fine motor skill to work on.
- Remember to supervise children at all times when playing with small objects, as it can be a choking hazard.





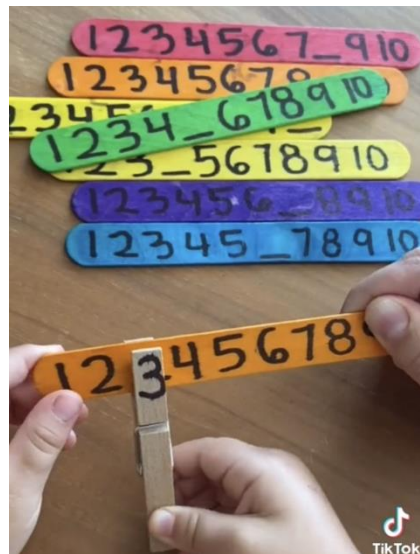
## Counting with Toilet Paper Rolls and Straws

- Save your empty toilet paper rolls and write numbers on them.
- Use straws or any other object that can fit inside the rolls.
- Have your child place the appropriate number of straws or items in the toilet paper rolls.
- Encourage your child to count out loud as they complete this activity.
- This is a great way to practice counting and to learn how many each number represents.



## Fill the Missing Number

- Use 9 or 10 popsicle sticks for this activity.
- On the popsicle sticks, write numbers 1 through 10 on them, but skip a different number on each popsicle stick. When you skip a number, just draw a line for a blank space.
- Use clothespins or chip clips and write a number from 1 to 10 on each.
- Encourage your child to place the correct clothespin or chip clip on the correct popsicle stick to fill in the missing number.
- This is a great way to start to learn and recognize numbers.
- You can even count out loud as you complete this activity.
- Opening up the clothespins or chip clips is also a great way to strengthen the small muscles in the hands and fingers.





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