



Mathematics

Counts to 20



Counting helps children build number sense, which is the ability to use numbers and understand how numbers work in different contexts. This skill leads to future success with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division and allows children the opportunity to tie language to representations of quantity, such as less, more, greater than, and less than.*

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Hide and Seek

Play hide-and-seek with your child and have him count to 20 while you hide. If needed, your child can start by counting to a lower number, such as 5 or 10.

Number Rhymes

Nursery rhymes that include numbers are a fun way to practice counting. One example is "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe:" One, two, Buckle my shoe; Three, four, Shut the door; Five, six, Pick up sticks; Seven, eight, Lay them straight; Nine, ten, A big fat hen!

Math Freeze Tag

Play freeze tag and have your child count to a certain number, such as 5 or 10, before she can "unfreeze." Increase the number as your child develops her ability to recite numbers.

What Comes Next?

Have your child fill in the next number when you are counting, "1, 2, 3, 4. . ." Continue with higher numbers as he is successful.

Mailbox Run

Have your child count how many seconds or steps it takes for you to run to the mailbox.

How Many Steps?

Count each step aloud as you climb a staircase or walk to your car, encouraging your child to count with you.

Jump Rope Counting

Have your child count how many jumps she can accomplish when jumping rope.

Count the Objects

While setting the table for dinner, putting books back on a shelf after reading, or putting toys away in a toy box, have your child count the objects.

* Jordan, N. C., & Dyson, N. (2016). Catching math problems early: Finding from the number sense intervention project. In A. Henik (Ed.), *Continuous issues in numerical cognition: How many and how much* (pp. 60-81). Elsevier: London, UK.



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