

Counting Scavenger Hunt!

What is it? A game of collecting objects that can be played inside or outside! This can help children to count objects and recognise numerals.

What to do: Write the numbers 1-10 onto pieces of paper. Ask your child to find that number of objects to match. For example: Show them the number 1 and ask if they know what number it is, ask them to find one sock and place it onto the paper. Next move onto number 2, can they find 2 teddy bears. When your child brings the objects back, ask them to count them out to check they have the right amount - if not do they need more or less?

What else can you do? If you have an outdoor area, can you find things from around the garden? Can you go past 10?



Number Car Park.

What is it? A car park for toy cars that encourages matching numerals, or numeral to quantity.

What to do: Using a cardboard box or large piece of paper, draw lines to create spaces for toy cars. Write numbers on the spaces depending on how many you plan to use. Add numbers to match the spaces to the toy cars using paper and cello tape or blue tack. Once your child has played with their cars it's time to tidy them up into the correct spaces!

What else can you do? If your child is already able to match numerals and recognise numerals, why not have cars with numbers on and parking spaces with the corresponding number of spots. This way your child has to count the spots to match the number car. Could you work together to decorate the car park? Could you use other toys instead of cars? Numbered teddy bear beds? Numbered fairy houses?



Bottle Bowling!

What is it? A bowling game using empty bottles! This can help your child to count objects and understand larger and smaller numbers.

What to do: Collect empty plastic bottles (from juice, oil etc.) If you have 6 or more this will work better (but you can use as many as you want). Set the bottles up in a triangle shape—most at the back and fewest at the front. Using a ball (if you don't have a ball you could roll up some tin foil), take it in turns to roll the ball to the bottles and then count how many you have knocked over. Write the number down to keep a score record. The winner is the person who knocked the most bottles over!

What else can you do? Could you add water to the bottles to make them heavier and therefore more difficult to knock over? Could you decorate the bottles? Could you give each bottle a different score, so counting how many you knocked over becomes more difficult?



Number Cups!

What is it? A game to encourage counting and number recognition.

What to do: Using paper cups, write the numbers 0-10. On a piece of paper draw 10 circles the same size as the top of the cup (drawing round the cup is an easy option). Into your circles draw dots that correspond to the numbers on the cups. Mix the cups up and encourage your child to place them back onto the correct position.

What else can you do? Could you do numbers to 20? Could you use only dots to encourage children to count and match?



Number Snowmen.

What is it? A winter activity to encourage counting and number recognition.

What to do: Draw a snowman shape - give him eyes, a nose and a mouth. Next make 11 hats - add numbers 0-10 on these. Using pebbles, raisins or paper disks - encourage your child to give the snowman a hat and add the correct number of buttons to his body.

What else can you do? Could you make more hats? Could you make the activity into Christmas cards?

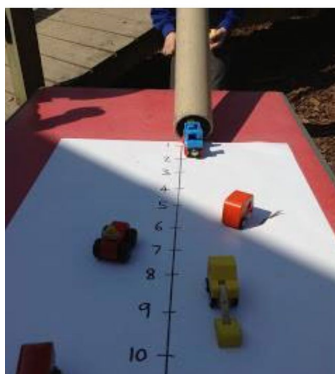


Rolling Ramp!

What is it? A game to measure distance. This can help your child to develop mathematical concepts of length and speed as well as an ability to recognise numerals.

What to do: Using a large piece of paper (or using chalk outside) draw a number line. Find something to use as a ramp (old guttering, toilet roll tubes attached together, an old plank of wood, an outdoor slide). Take it in turns to roll things down the ramp (cars, balls, toys). Who's item goes the fastest? Who's goes the furthest?

What else can you do? Talk about why some items are fast and others are slow. Make predictions before you roll items - What number will it reach? Will it be faster or slower than the last?



Counting Rhymes!

What is it? A range of songs and rhymes you could sing with your child to encourage counting forwards and backwards.

What to do: There are hundreds of counting and number rhymes to choose from, 'This old Man,' '1,2, Buckle My Shoe' and '1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught A Fish Alive,' are all rhymes that encourage counting up. While '10 In the Bed And The Little One Said,' '10 Green Bottles,' and '5 Fat Sausages,' all encourage counting down.

What else can you do? Make props to encourage counting. For example - play dough sausages, or plastic bottles.



Counting Objects.

What is it? A counting activity to encourage the ability to count objects and match numeral to quantity.

What to do: Using cake cases or paper plate, write a number onto each. Using buttons, pom-poms (or whatever you have at home) ask your child to count out the correct number into each cake case.

What else can you do? Use tweezers or kitchen tongs to pick up the objects to make the activity more difficult, this will also help with fine motor development.



Skittles

What is it? A game to encourage counting and mark making.

What to do: Using skittles, set them up into a triangle shape. Use a soft ball and roll it towards the skittles. Count how many have been knocked over. Encourage your child to write the number down, or make a mark to represent each skittle.

What else can you do? If you don't have skittles at home, why not make your own using toilet roll tubes or plastic bottles?



Counting is Egg-Citing

What is it? A counting activity using an egg box and resources from around the home or garden. This can help children to match numeral to quantity.

What to do: Write number 1-5 inside of the egg carton. Encourage your child to find objects from around the home to fill each hole. E.g. 1 leaf with the number 1, 2 buttons with the number 2 etc.

What else can you do? Could you add more numbers? You could add resources to the top of the egg box e.g. pieces of pasta for your child to count out into the egg holes.



Pasta Count.

What is it? A counting activity using spaghetti and penne pasta (or beads) to encourage matching numeral to quantity, this also helps to encourage fine motor development.

What to do: Using a ball of play dough place a stick of spaghetti into it. Add a card with a number on into the play dough. Giving your child a pile of penne pasta or some beads, encourage them to thread the correct amount onto the stick of spaghetti.

What else can you do? Use tweezers or kitchen tongs to pick up the objects to make the activity more difficult, this will also help with fine motor development.



Number Hop!

What is it? A physical game (a little like musical statues or bumps) that encourages numeral recognition.

What to do: Write the numbers 1-5 on pieces of paper and spread them around on the floor. Play some music to dance too. When the music stops, shout out a number - your child then has to find the number and stand on top of it!

What else can you do? Could you add more numbers? Could you add shapes? Letters from your child's name for a literacy twist?

