



Developing early number skills



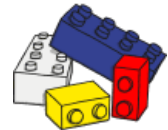
It's never too early to explore counting and number skills with your child. Talking about numbers and counting early will show your child that numbers are part of everyday life. Here are 5 top tips for bringing numbers into everyday life at home!

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1. Sing counting songs together! Songs like 10 green bottles, 10 in a bed, 5 little speckled frogs, 5 little monkeys. Some of these songs get your child familiar with counting backwards.
2. Point out numbers when you're out and about. Learning to recognise the shape of numbers is as helpful as counting. Point out house numbers, the numbers on buses or train platforms, and in the shops. This will show your child numbers are everywhere.
3. Count small objects together and make this fun – count the number of vegetables that are on their plate, the stairs as you climb, the Lego pieces they are building with, the fruit in the fruit bowl. *It is important that you only count one object at a time.*

You can ask questions like:

- How many apples are there in the bowl?
- How many Lego bricks have you?
- How many carrots, peas, beans etc... have you on your plate?



Keep this fun and in short bursts!

4. Draw, write and build numbers together – use playdough to make the numbers, take chalk outside and write the numbers on the ground, use a paintbrush dipped in water to write numbers on a wall or play with magnetic numbers.



5. Play board games together. Board games are a useful way of teaching your child lots of important skills, such as turn taking. Many board games can help with counting, especially with the use of a dice. Snakes and ladders can be a fun game to play and exposes your child to lots of number shapes.

