



Help Your Child Understand Numbers!

Your child was born to count! With your help in learning to understand numbers, your child will be more likely to do well after entering school. Infants are generally not to focus on numbers, but when toddlers and pre-schoolers get an understanding of quantity and how numbers work, they are better prepared later to grasp mathematical ideas in school. There are things you can do now to help your child to understand numbers. Try these suggestions:

YOUR INFANT:

- Read simple board books with your child. Point to and count the objects on each page. For example, tell your infant: "Look! There are three chickens."

YOUR TODDLER:

- Let your toddler play with blocks, several balls, nesting plastic bowls or other groups of objects that suggest quantity.
- Count with your child, and make a game of it. "You have one fork, one spoon and two hands!" "How many grapes are here? One, two..."
- Count the stairs as you take your child up for bed.
- Use number words with your child whenever you can. "In five minutes it will be bedtime." "This makes two times we've gone to the store today!"

YOUR PRE-SCHOOLER:

- Ask your child questions with numbers: "How many colors would you like to paint with? Let's see. One, two, three..." "Is our car second or third in line?"
- Weigh and measure your child as often as he or she likes. Keep a chart on the wall where you (with your child's help) write the numbers of his or her weight and height. Point to the numbers to show how he or she is growing.
- Count with your child while doing everyday things: when pushing on the swing, taking pieces of fruit or cookies for a snack, or putting items into your shopping cart.
- When your child draws or paints, write different numbers: his or her age, or today's date.

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