

Uses 1:1 correspondence to count up to 5 objects

Children need to be able to count to support later mathematical learning. One-to-one counting helps children match number names to objects. Regular opportunities to count throughout continuous provision, supported by adult modelling, help children develop confidence and understanding.

Activities include:

- Counting how many children are present during group times, encouraging children to touch each child as they count
- Counting plates, cups, and other items at snack or mealtimes
- Using counting during cooking activities, for example, "We need three eggs. Let's count them together: 1, 2, 3"
- Talking about children's ages and encouraging them to show the correct number of fingers
- Incorporating counting into play, such as counting bricks on a tower, claps or jumps
- Using numeral cards, dot cards, or dice patterns to support children's understanding of number
- Playing games such as throwing beanbags into numbered hoops and counting the correct number of beanbags into each hoop
- Encourage parents to support counting at home by spotting numbers in the environment, setting the table, counting items during shopping, or helping with household tasks such as sorting laundry

Songs and Rhymes to Support:

- 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe
- Five Peas in a Peapod
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive
- 1 Potato, 2 Potato
- The Ants Go Marching

Counting-on and counting-back songs also help develop number skills. Use props or encourage children to act out the songs.

Examples include:

- One Elephant Came Out to Play
- Five Little Ducks
- Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer
- Five Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree