

Daily Opportunities to Explore Number and Counting

Routines

Count playfully during routines.

Model counting during mealtimes.

"I see you have lots of carrots on your plate. Let's count them together. You have one, two, three, four carrots on your plate."

Count playfully while children clean up or transition from one activity to another.

Count legs, snaps on a onesie, or tabs on a diaper while changing a diaper.

"Let's put your pants back on. One leg, two legs!"



Outside Time

Explore quantities of items found in nature, on the playground or in the community.

Go on a scavenger hunt for sets of items.

"Look, I see two acorns on the ground. One, two! Can you find more?"

Use number words while on a walk or on the playground.

"One, two, three steps, and then we are at the door."



Play Time

While playing, model counting objects.

Provide sets of objects that children can play with (for example, blocks, spinning tops, counting bears, cars, balls, or natural materials like leaves).

Encourage children to count with you.

"Your building is very tall. Let's count the number of blocks together. You have one, two, three blocks."

Use hand gestures to show different quantities in English and the children's home language.

"How old are you? Two!" Then, hold up two fingers.



Story Time

Read books, sing songs, or share stories with number words.

When reading counting books point to and count each object on the page. Then, communicate how many objects there are altogether.

When reading *Doggies* (or *Perros* in Spanish) by Sandra Boynton, say, "I see one (point to the first dog), two (point to the second dog). There are two dogs."

Invite families to share counting songs, chants, and fingerplays in their home language.

A parent joins circle time and sings "Cinco ratoncitos" with the children.

Use puppets to count together.

While singing the "Five Little Ducks," use puppets to count the ducks.

