

Counting and Numbers: 16-24 Months

Simple counting and number activities will help your child:

- Understand simple math concepts
- Begin to count from memory to five
- Recognize and name a few shapes

Ideas to try with your child:

- Count in everyday routines by saying things like: “Let’s count the blocks as we put them in the bucket” or “Do you want one or two apple slices?” Describe what your child is doing and help with counting and sorting “You are putting 3 red blocks in the bucket. Let’s count each block... 1, 2, 3.”
- Look at books with your child that have numbers and items to count, like *Let’s Count* by Tana Hoban and *I Fish 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr Seuss.
- Sing songs and do finger plays to encourage counting, such as “5 Little Monkeys.” Go online to the *Reading Is Fundamental* website to get the words and watch simple fingerplays in action. <http://www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers/finger-plays.htm>

If your child is struggling:

- Help your child to match shapes. Say, “Show me the shape that looks like mine.” (Matching comes before naming.)
- Talk about number concepts together: “Let’s cut the bread into two pieces;” “Take two crackers and put them on your plate;” “You are two, show me two fingers.”

Going further:

- Name shapes around the house “The clock is a circle.” “The door is a rectangle.” “Your cracker is a square.”
- Do activities with your child to identify shapes such as puzzles, building blocks, or shape sorters.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 16-36 months** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Begin counting small group items (up to five)” *Learning About My World*, Ages-16-36 months, pg. 50