

## Counting One-by-One

Learning to count one-by-one will help your child to:

- Know how many he has
- Know how many he needs
- Know how many are in a small group, and which group has more or less



### Ideas to try with your child:

- Counting at the store: Have your child count how many pieces of fruit you put into the bag, or count how many items you put on the conveyer belt when using the 10 items or less line. Example: "Can you help me count the apples we're putting into the bag? We need four at our house."
- Counting at home: Have your child count how many pieces of cereal fell out of his bowl, or how many slices of fruit are on his plate.

### If your child is struggling:

- Start counting with small sets of two to three, and count with your child every time you see a small group. Ex. "Let's look for twos and threes! I see two eyes on this doll, how many does your other doll have?"
- Using your body to count: count how many fingers, toes, ears, eyes, or other body parts your child has while in the bathtub or when getting dressed.

### Going further:

- Count how many red cars you see while driving the same route on different days: "Let's look for red cars again and keep track!" Compare how many you see on two different days: "We saw eight yesterday, and one...two...three today so far. Why do you think there are more or less today?"
- **Books to check out from the library:**  
Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh; Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker; Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow; How Many Kisses Do You Want Tonight? by Varsha Bajaj; and The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle



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 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Count to 10 and beyond by rote. Count up to five items, point to objects while counting." *Learning about My World: Math, Ages-3-4 years*, pg. 63