

Counting to 10

Counting to 10 and above will help your child to:

- Know how many she has or needs to have in daily tasks
- Count objects in a group

Ideas to try with your child:

- Count groups of objects around the house during the day: pairs of socks in the laundry, the number of shirts in the closet, the group of baby dolls in the toy box, or the number of toys on the floor. Example: "We need to put our toys away in the box. Let's count how many we have as we put them away."
- Play a board game with your child to practice counting (like *Candyland* or *Chutes and Ladders*) and have your child count each space out loud when it is her turn to move.
- Teach her this simple nursery rhyme: "One, two, buckle my shoe! Three, four, shut the door! Five, six, pick up sticks! Seven, eight, lay them straight! Nine, ten, a big, fat hen!"

If your child is struggling:

- Count to five when changing from one activity to another: "We're done with our snack! Before we go outside to play, let's count to five together."
- Count while your child is brushing her teeth. Count to five in each area of the mouth (molars, front teeth, behind the teeth, left side, right side) so she does a complete job.

Going further:

- Walk or march around the house and count how many steps it takes to get from place to place together.
- Always encourage your child to count with you! While waiting at a red light or a stop sign, see how high you can count together before it is your turn to go or the light changes.
- Books to check out at the library:
Richard Scarry's Best Counting Book Ever by Richard Scarry; Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews; or Ten Little Ladybugs by Melanie Gerth.



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



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. 64