



Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home



Count your chips!

Counting is really easy when you know how, and really hard when you are still learning! You have to remember the right words in order, match each word to one object, only count each thing once ...

What really helps children is if they hear and see you counting when you do everyday things, and if they can have a go along with you sometimes. It can be as simple as counting spaces as you move in a board game, or counting out the knives and forks when you lay the table

This works well because it is more meaningful than just counting for the sake of it or to practice counting, especially if it is something we care about – like how many sprouts we get to eat!

What do I need?

- No special equipment needed – just the things you do every day
- It is best to do this for just a few things each day for a few days – rather than count everything for just one day
- Best also to pick moments when you are counting only a few things – just two or three is fine at first

What will your child learn from this play?

- The names of numbers
- Counting sequences
- How to count
- The different ways numbers are useful
- Confidence with numbers and maths
- Developing memory skills too

What do we do?

When you are counting things out for a purpose, do this out loud and slowly, making clear for each object as it is counted

Could be:

- Getting dressed, “that’s one sock ... and two socks”
- Laying the table, “one spoon ... two spoons ... three spoons; one fork ... two forks ... three forks”
- Cooking or serving food, “one potato ... two potatoes”
- Out walking, “one step ... two steps ... etc”; or jumping
- Putting toys away

Anything you can count out as you do it!

Let your child join in, if they want – don’t worry about correcting errors, just show them again

How can you take it further?

Many children will be fine with two or three things, but others will want to go higher

Let your child take over the counting once they are secure with it

Look out for things to count when you are out and about – birds, dogs, people, bus stops, shops