

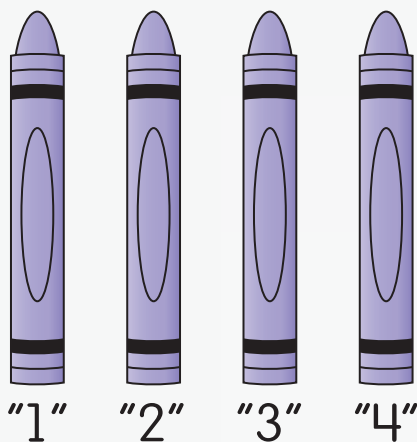
Dear Family,

This week your child is learning about counting.

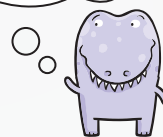


In class, your child will discuss reasons that people count and why counting is an important part of everyday life. For example, a teacher might count the books on a shelf to make sure there are enough for each child. Or a child might count the number of days until his or her birthday.

By counting objects in groups of 1 to 4, your child will also develop the understanding that when counting a group of objects, each number is associated with one object, and the last number counted tells the total amount in the group. For example, when counting a group of 4 crayons, you might touch each crayon while saying a number: 1, 2, 3, 4. *There are 4 crayons.* Or you might move each crayon to the side as it is counted.



There are 4 crayons.



Through learning what it means to count and developing strategies for keeping track of objects being counted, your child will start to build a strong foundation for success in math.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about counting by doing the following activity together.

NEXT

Counting Activity

Materials: 3 cups, 9 pennies (or other small objects such as buttons or dried beans)

Do the following activity to help your child practice counting strategies.

- Fill each of the cups with 2, 3, or 4 pennies (a different number in each cup).
- Have your child pour the pennies out of one cup and onto the table. Ask how many pennies are on the table.
- If your child has trouble counting the pennies, guide him or her to use a strategy such as touching each penny as it is counted, moving each penny to the side as it is counted, or putting each penny in the cup as it is counted.
- Have your child put the pennies back in the cup and repeat with the other two cups. Then change the order of the three cups and do the activity again.

If your child needs an extra challenge, here's a way to take the activity further. Have your child close his or her eyes and listen while you drop 1 to 4 pennies into a cup. Ask your child how many pennies are in the cup. Repeat several times.

