

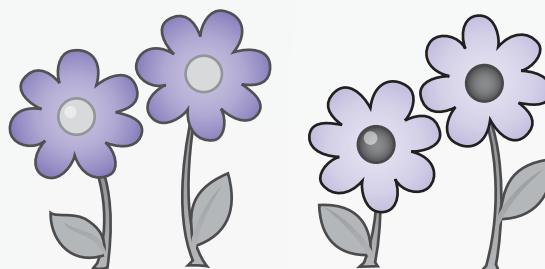
Dear Family,

This week your child is building counting skills with the number 4.



This skill involves learning to recognize and count groups of 4 objects in various arrangements. For example, 4 dots can be arranged in a single row or in 2 rows of 2 dots.

Your child will also explore the different ways that 4 objects can be counted and begin to think about 4 in relation to other numbers. For example, the 4 flowers below can be counted from left to right, from right to left, or as a group of 2 and another group of 2. By exploring the various ways that 4 can be counted, and how 4 relates to other numbers, your child will begin preparing to add and subtract, which will be a focus later in the year.



4 flowers

This lesson also includes practice with writing the number 4.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about counting up to 4 objects by doing the following activity together.

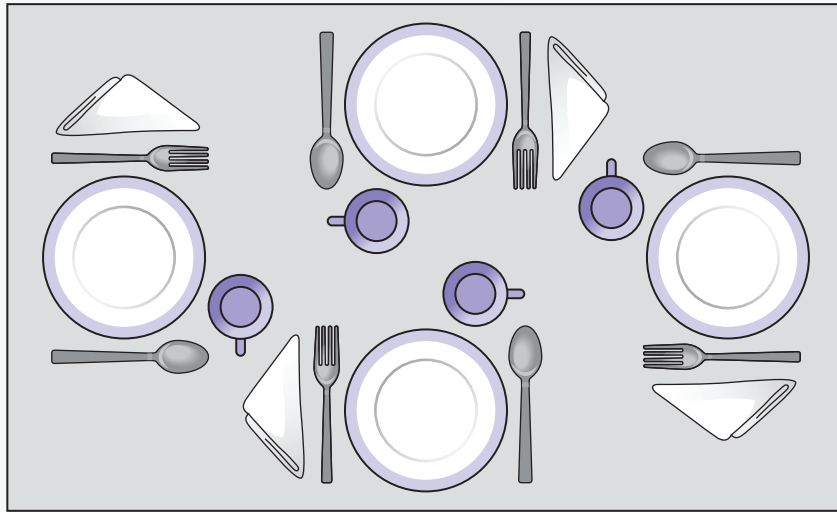


Counting 4 Activity

Materials: plates, cups, napkins, spoons, forks (at least 5 of each)

Tell your child you are going to pretend that 4 people will be eating dinner together. Have your child lead you in setting the table, encouraging him or her to focus on the number 4 and to count 4 objects.

Ask questions such as: *How many plates do we need? How do you know there are 4 cups? Can you count 4 spoons and put them next to the forks?* When you have finished setting the table have your child count the objects to make sure there are 4 of each.



Then tell your child that this time 2 people will be eating together. Have your child lead you in resetting the table for 2 people. Ask questions to help your child focus on the number 2. When the table is set, have your child count the objects to make sure there are 2 of each. You may wish to repeat the activity by setting the table for 3 people or 1 person.

Throughout the day point out other objects that are in groups of 1, 2, 3, or 4. For example, ask how many knobs are on the door or how many shoes your child is wearing. Have your child count 3 drawers in a dresser. Point out 4 wheels on a toy car, and so on.

