

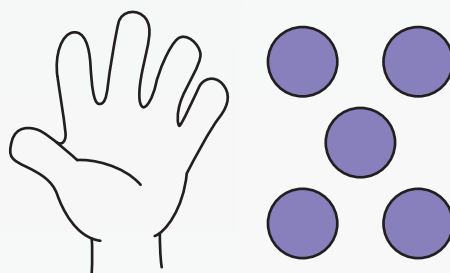
Dear Family,

**This week your child is building counting skills with the number 5.**



This skill involves learning to recognize and count groups of 5 objects in pictures and in the classroom. Building on previous lessons, your child will explore how 5 is related to other numbers. For example, 5 is more than 4, and 5 can be shown as groups of 4 objects and 1 object, or groups of 3 objects and 2 objects. Understanding the quantity 5 and how it relates to other numbers will help your child prepare for later work with greater numbers.

Another helpful counting strategy is using fingers to count groups of 5, raising one finger at a time while counting until all 5 fingers on one hand are raised.



This lesson also includes practice with writing the number 5.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about counting 5 by doing the following activity together.





### Counting 5 Activity

**Materials:** shallow plastic container with lid or shallow metal baking pan,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cup of salt or sugar, colored paper (optional)

In this activity, your child will use his or her finger to practice writing the numbers 1 to 5 in a layer of salt or sugar.

- Pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cup of salt or sugar into a shallow plastic container or shallow metal pan.
- Spread out the salt or sugar into a fairly thin layer.
- Have your child use his or her finger to practice writing the numbers 1 to 5 in the salt or sugar. (Note: If your child is working on a white table, you may wish to place a sheet of colored paper under the container so that the numbers are easier to see.)
- Show your child how to wipe a hand across the salt or sugar each time he or she is ready to write a new number.
- When your child is done with the activity, you can cover the container and save the salt or sugar for future use with the same activity.

