



For young children, counting should be a reasonably simple task, starting with very basic and working their way up.

How many tummies do you have? (*The answer is one, even if they do seem to eat like they have 2!*)

How many necks?

How many backs?

How many hands do you have?

How many legs / eyes / ears etc?

How many thumbs?

How many fingers? (*It's up to you if you count thumbs along with the fingers*)

This is where you can start to show how different groups can still make the same number (eg. 2 fingers + 2 fingers, or, 3 fingers + 1 finger, or, 4 fingers – all add up to 4).

A song like BINGO is good for learning about the sequence, clapping as each letter of the name is replaced.

There are numerous other songs about counting (I'm *not* thinking of '99 bottles of pop on the wall!') You can find many examples online to sing along with.

If your child is interested in animals, count how many eyes, legs, different colours etc. they have.

Older children may be able to start to discuss the letters that numbers start with (One is 'o' – even though it sounds like a 'w'; Two is 't' etc).

You can encourage children to draw or write the numbers, draw groups of objects (eg. cars, animals), that have a specific number – one car, two dogs etc.

They may prefer to count physical objects – how many toy cars, how many books, how many cookies (and then you can talk about how many things have been subtracted!)