

Note to Parents and Caretakers: Rational counting is much more than being able to recite the number names in order. It is matching number names to individual items to determine how many are in the set. Children learn to count rationally over time by experiencing many different counting activities. Use the following activities periodically over the course of several months and have fun!

Activity 1: Practice counting with a ten frame

Using sturdy paper print two of the ten frames shown on page 2. Find sets of objects around your home and help your child determine how many objects are in each set. You might count the number of pennies in a pocket or coin purse, the number of measuring spoons in a drawer, the number of pencils in a desk, etc. As your child counts each object have him or her move the object into the ten frame. This helps your child slow down so each object gets one count. When you finish counting ask questions similar to the following: How many do we have? Is that more or less than 10? Is that more or less than 5? Do we have more pennies or more nickels? If we added one more, how many would there be? If we took one away, how many would there be?

Activity 2: Play the Game, *Number Concentration*.

Print and cut out the cards shown on pages 3 through 6. Half of the cards show the numbers 1 to 10 in a ten frame and half the cards show the numbers 1 to 10 on a die. Place all of the cards face down in rows. Take turns turning two cards over. If the cards show the same amount, it is a match. Keep the cards and take another turn. If the cards do not show the same amount, it is not a match. Turn the cards over and wait for your next turn.

Activity 3: Decorate cupcakes and practice counting.

Bake and frost cupcakes. Decorate the cupcakes with candy similar to M&Ms or Skittles. Put one piece of candy on the first cupcake, two pieces of candy on the second cupcake, three on the third cupcake, etc. Have your child count out the number of pieces of candy that should go on each cupcake and then place the candy on the cupcakes.

Ten Frame

Number Concentration Cards

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