

Cover Up—One to One Correspondence

What the Research Says

- During the preschool years (ages 3-5 years), children build basic understanding of numbers or amounts through their actions with real objects.
- In order to count well, children need to: 1) know the sequence of the numbers, 2) be able to count aloud with one-to- one correspondence, and 3) understand that the last number counted tells how many in a group.
- **One-to-one correspondence** is the process of touching one object for each number counted aloud.
- **Rote counting** is the naming of the number words in the correct sequence (saying: 1,2,3,4,...).
- Although rote counting is important, children learn more about counting and numbers if they count aloud with objects 1:1 (touching an object for every number they say aloud).
- One-to-one correspondence is necessary before children can carry out higher-level math operations.
- Helping children link their understanding of numbers with specific objects, prepares them to begin working with larger quantities.