



## Number Recognition and Counting Suggested Activities

- **Use the “Count the Seeds Activity” and “Count the Emotions” worksheets to emphasize one-to-one correspondence:** One-to-one correspondence means that when you are counting, each object counts as one. Use these two worksheets to reinforce this concept.
- **Use tangible (things you can touch) objects to emphasize one-to-one correspondence:** Have your child count groupings of objects that capture their interest. For example if your child enjoys playing with stuffed animals, while your child is actively playing with them you could add to their play time by asking what scene is taking place in their play, for example, your child might say, “All the animals are having a swimming party!”, and you could say in response, “A swimming party sound fun. How many animals are at the swim party?” You and your child could then count out loud the stuffed animals that are present.
- **Counting from 1 to 20:** Practice counting from one to twenty. You can do this by asking your child to assist you in counting from one to twenty out loud, by counting groups of twenty items (for example stuffed animals, pennies, noodles).
- **Counting from 1 to 20 starting from a number that is not 1:** This is harder for your child than you may think! Starting at a number other than one, adds a layer of understanding how to numbers work. Challenge your child, by making it fun! You could take turns with your child challenging the other to count to twenty AND choosing the number for the other person to begin at. Let your child choose which number for you to begin at first to model how the game will work. It could sound like this, “We should take turns counting to twenty! But we’re not going to start at the number one. You get to choose which number I (or we, you can do it

together each time if your child is more comfortable with that) start at. What number do you choose for us to start at? You chose ten? Good choice! Okay, let's start at ten. Ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty! Okay now what number should we begin at?"

- **Introducing addition and subtraction using story problems:** An easy way to introduce the concepts of addition and subtraction are by using story problems. Use characters, objects, or other interests that your child has to create story problems. For example, if your child loves to play with toy cars you can make a up a scenario with the cars where some cars would be added to the situation or taken away. It could sound like this, "Spider-man is going to have a pool party and has invited ten of his friends! Each of his friends has to drive over to his house for the pool party. Let's drive ten cars over to Spider-man's party. (Counts out ten cars and puts them in designated area). Okay all of Spider-man's friends are here at the pool party. But we have a problem, four of his friends forgot their bathing suits and have to drive back home to get them. Let's drive four cars back home. How many of Spider-man's friends are still at the pool party? (Counts remaining cars.) There are six friends still at the party. So if there were ten friends and four go away there are six friends left. Ten take away (subtract) four equals six."
- **Greater, lesser, and equal:** Begin using the terms greater, less, and equal in your everyday conversations with your child. For example, while you are preparing dinner your child could help set the table. This is a great opportunity to use the word "equal". It could sound like this, "Can you count how many people are eating dinner? (Child counts four.) There are four people eating dinner tonight. How many forks do you think we need? (Child says four.) Yes, there are four people eating and we need an equal number of forks. Please set out four forks for an equal number of four people."