

Theme: Counting and Math

The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle that teaches math skills using everyday routines.

TV that teaches

Barney & Friends: #608—Count Me In
Sesame Street: #4088—Count von Count waltzes to the number of the day (12)
Reading Rainbow: #131—Math Cure
Between the Lions: #213—Five, Six, Pick Up Sticks
Boohbah: #105—Windows

Storybooks

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews
Fiesta! by Ginger Fogelson Guy
Feast for Ten by Catherine Falwell
A Garden Full of Sizes by Brian Sargent
Crayola Counting by Rozanne Lanczak Williams



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Activities

1. **Count It Out:** Include counting in all of your daily routines. Count spoons and bowls as you set the table for breakfast. Sort and count socks as you put away laundry. Count how many steps it takes you to go down a flight of stairs, or count canned goods as you get ready for dinner. If you want a challenge, try counting in Spanish or French or Urdu.
2. **Size It Up:** Look for opportunities during your day to match size to need. Let your child find the right-sized lid for the pot you are using, or choose the best bag to carry toys to grandma's, or how big a towel he needs to fit around his teddy bear. For younger children limit the number of options to choose from.
3. **Find the Match:** Bring out several different pairs of shoes and mix them up in a pile. Can you find the mate to each shoe? Do you have shoes from different people in your family? Arrange them according to size or color. You might even want to play "shoe store" with the shoes.
4. **Sort It:** Money and math go hand in hand, so make the most of your change jar. Let your child sort a pile of change into pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, then count the coins in each category. Because coins can be a choking hazard, limit this activity to older children.
5. **Cook It:** Cooking provides wonderful math opportunities. Invite your child to help you in the kitchen. Let your child measure flour, count eggs, and estimate what a half of a stick of butter looks like. Point out numbers as you use a measuring cup, oven, or microwave.

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail delaney1@will.uiuc.edu.

