

Hidden Numbers and Counting Objects

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Grade Range	Content Area	Materials
Pre K - Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number Sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counters (e.g., seeds, beads, gems, etc.)• Splat (or something to cover the counters)• Any objects to count• Picture Books (suggested)

Instructions

Hidden Numbers

1. Display a set of counters (e.g., seeds, beads, gems, etc.) and ask the following questions:
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. How many counters do you see?
2. Cover some of the counters with a splat (see the end of the document) and ask the following questions:
 - a. How many counters are under the splat?
 - b. How do you know?

If your child needs some support to answer the previous questions, you can pose some scaffolding questions:

- a. How many counters were in total?
 - b. How many counters do you see?
 - c. How many counters do you think are under the splat?
3. Look under the splat to see how many counters are there.
4. Ask: What can you learn from this?
5. You can repeat the sequence with a different amount of counters.

Counting Objects

1. You can start this activity by reading a mathematical picture book to inspire your children to count objects. You can find some suggested titles below:
 - a. Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews
 - b. Two Ways to Count to Ten by Ruby Dee
 - c. Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
 - d. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
 - e. Anno's Counting Book by Anno
 - f. 1 Cookie, 2 Chairs, 3 Pears by Jane Brocket
2. Prompt your child to count different quantities of objects using the following questions (You can focus on quantities from 1 to 5, or you can extend the questions to count collections up to 10, depending on the age and experience of your child):
 - a. What do you see around that comes in a group of 1?
 - b. What do you see around that comes in a group of 2? How did you know there were 2?
 - c. What do you see around that comes in a group of 3? How did you know there were 3?
 - d. What do you see around that comes in a group of 4? How did you know there were 4?
 - e. What do you see around that comes in a group of 5? How did you know there were 5?
 - f. What do you see around that comes in a group of 10? How did you know there were 10?

Extensions, Modifications & Additional Resources

The **Hidden Numbers** activity is inspired by [Splat](#) by Steve Wyborney.

Counting Objects - Modification

1. Provide your child with different collections of objects (the range of the collection can go from 1 object to 20 objects, depending on the age and experience of your child).
2. After your child counts, you can ask the following questions:
 - a. How many?
 - b. How did you count?

Notes:

- If at the end of the count, your child needs to recount to answer “How many?”, remember that it is part of the process of learning how to count. Please encourage them to keep counting.
- If your child does not attach one number word to each object, you can make a plan for counting: arrange objects in a row, count objects from left to right, touch one object and say each number word out loud, move each object as it is counted or place it into a bag.

SPLAT

