

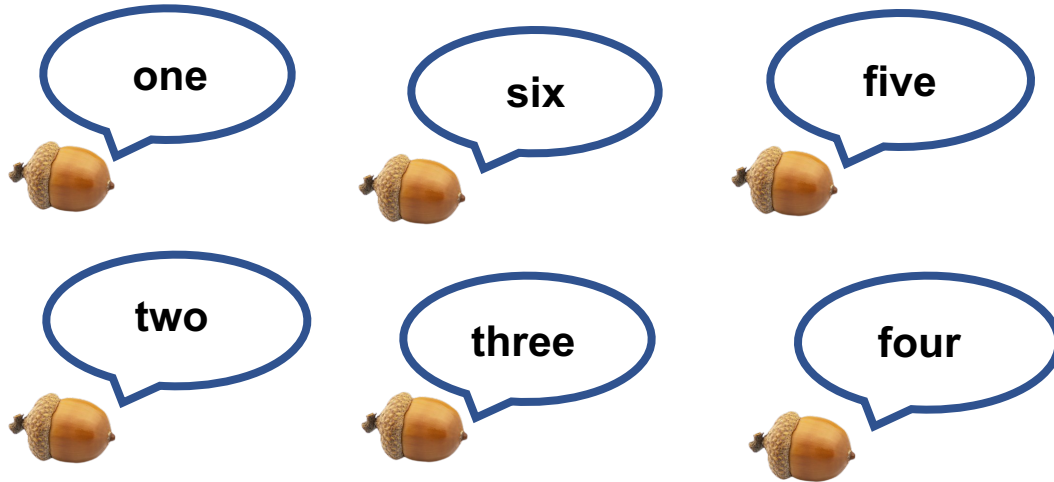
# Helping your child to count!



## Counting skill #1: 1-1 Correspondence

### What is this?

This is when your child says one number, and only one number for each object.



### How you can help your child.

- Provide a range of objects to count. Practise counting together.
- Encourage your child to move objects as they count, one at a time.
- Matching activities –for example when setting the table, each plate has a cup.
- Asking your child, “How will you keep track of the ones you’ve counted and the ones you’ve not counted?”

# Helping your child to count!



## Counting skill #2: Stable Order

### What is this?

123456  
78910

This is when your child knows there is a set of counting words that everyone uses and these never change.

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight...*

### How you can help your child.

- Providing **lots** of opportunities to count different things.
- Let your child hear and watch you counting so they can copy.
- Count backwards and forwards. Try counting on or back from any single digit number, e.g., '3..4,5,6,7' and '6...5,4,3,2,1'
- Counting rhymes and songs- [Visit the Scottish Book Trust Website –Bookbug Songs and Rhymes Library](#)

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## Counting skill #3: Cardinal Principle

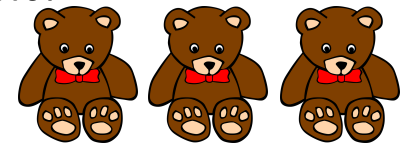
### What is this?

This is when your child knows that the **last** number they say when counting objects tells them the **total** number in the group.

“1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6”

### How you can help your child.

- After you count objects, repeat the total number – 1,2,3,4...there are 4 pencils in the box.
- Asking your child “How many?” after they’ve counted something - How many teddies do you have? How many did you count?



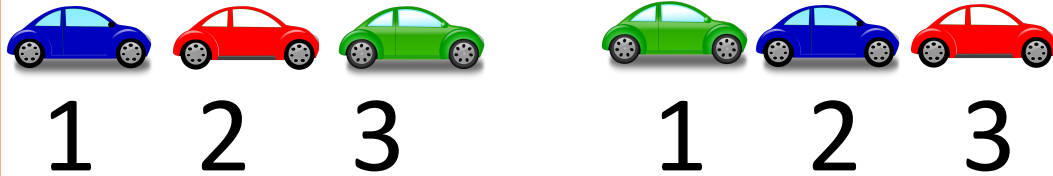
# Helping your child to count!



## Counting skill #4: Order Irrelevance

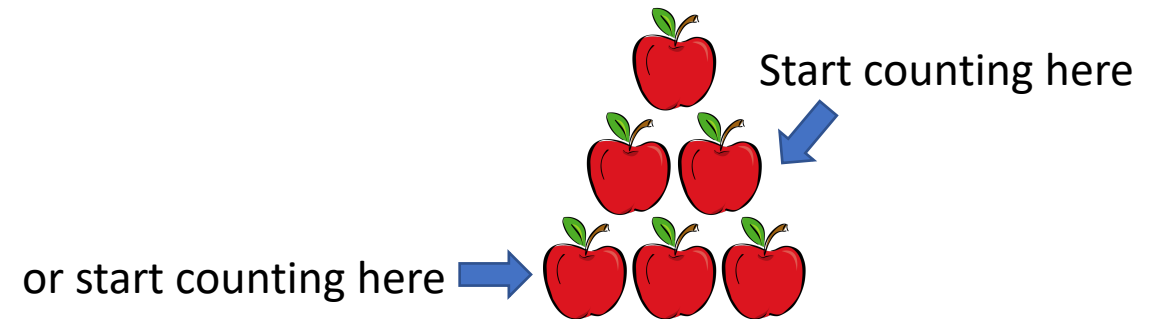
### What is this?

This is when your child knows they can count in any order and this doesn't affect the total number in the group.



### How you can help your child.

- Let your child see and hear you counting groups of objects in different ways – from left-to-right, right-to-left, top-to-bottom, bottom-to-top etc.



# Helping your child to count!



## Counting skill #5: Abstract Principle

### What is this?

This is when your child knows they can count different things together in one group. They also know they can count things they can touch or things that they can't. (claps)



### How you can help your child.

Give your child **lots** of opportunities to count things than can be touched, seen and heard.

- Count claps or the beats of a drum.
- Count things you can see when looking at books together.
- Count objects when out shopping.
- Count how many things are in the fridge or the cupboard.
- Count how many star jumps or hops you and others in your household can do.
- Count how many steps there are from the gate to the front door or around the garden.