

Number Patterns

Counting and Comparing

In this investigation you and your child will create number patterns while counting and comparing different sets of like objects.

What's the BIG Idea?

Noticing, describing and explaining mathematical changes in quantity

Counting objects and comparing sets, developing a sense of quantity and beginning to use the language of addition and subtraction

What's Needed

A number of identical objects such as shapes, blocks or pennies

How to Do It

1. Begin by counting out five of the objects you've selected. Show your child that you can also represent "5" by making a set of "4" and a set of "1."
2. How many ways can you make the objects add up to 5? Show your child how many sets you can make ($5 + 0$, $2 + 3$). As you make sets together, make sure your child counts each object only once.
3. Listen as your child counts the objects. Does she count out loud? Does she talk about "adding" one more object to a set or about "taking away" one object from a set? Introduce the words "addition," "subtraction," and "equals" as you discuss the sets.
4. Continue to make sets, increasing the number of objects as appropriate—7, 12, etc.

We chickens are the best counters around. You can hear us if you listen closely. "Buk-buk-bukeep-bukeep, five more eggs today!" "Bahk-buk-buk-bukok, another two over here!" How many does that make?

*We're never quite sure, because every time the farmer comes by, the number changes and we have to **count** them all over again!*

