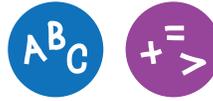


Counting Cupcakes



Skill Produce a set number of objects when asked (for counting 10 or fewer objects)

When learning to count, young children often think the object they touch when they say the number “five” is five. They aren’t yet able to conceptualize that all the objects they counted collectively represent five, not just the last object they counted. Young children need frequent opportunities to produce a set of objects that correspond with numbers they have been given. This helps solidify their understanding that the last number counted represents the amount in the group—not a single object.



What you will need:

- A cupcake/muffin pan, or 10 small containers
- 55 (or more) paperclips, buttons, beans, cotton balls, or other small objects
- Colored tape or sticky-notes

- 1. Set up the activity.**
Write the numbers 1 through 10 on pieces of tape or sticky-notes. Take a cupcake pan (or 10 small containers) and place each number in the bottom of a cup in the pan.
- 2. Identify the numbers.**
Encourage your child to say each number as they point to it.
- 3. Explain the activity.**
Once your child has identified all the numbers, explain to her that she is going to fill each compartment with the number of objects that correspond with the number on the container.
- 4. Pick a number, any number.**
Ask your child to select one number to start with.
- 5. Fill all the cups!**
Continue until each cup has been filled with the correct amount!

Tip:

You may want to cover the remaining two spaces with a piece of paper or tape if the pan is made for a dozen.

What you can say:

“We are going to practice counting skills! What numbers do you see on each cup?”

“Now we are going to fill each cup with the number of objects written on the cup.”

What you can say:

“Which number do you want to start with? 4? Great! Count 4 buttons to put into the number 4 cup.”



Level Up:

Change the order of the numbers on the muffin pan so that they are out of sequence.



Level Down:

- Start with fewer numbers like 1-5 and gradually build up to 10.
- On a piece of paper write the numbers 1-5 along the bottom then draw the corresponding amount of dots above each number. Have your child place objects on the dots to help them count out the correct number.