

Read and Bounce Counting

Primary Objectives

20a. Counts

Why It's Important

As young children begin to understand cause and effect, they discover that repeated actions yield similar effects. Bouncing your child gently every time you say a number in a counting book gives him an opportunity to make this type of connection.

Materials

Counting board books such as *Olivia Counts* by Ian Falconer, *Quack and Count* by Keith Baker, *Fish Eyes* by Lois Ehlert, and *Counting Kisses* by Karen Katz

What You Do

1. Sit in a comfortable chair with your child in your lap. Show him a few counting books, and invite him to choose one.
2. As you read the counting book, bounce your child as you count a number. For example, say, *One* (bounce), *two* (bounce), *three* (bounce). *Three fish in the sea.*
3. Continue this pattern as you read this book and other counting books.
4. Your child may anticipate the bounce when you begin to count and move his body on his own. This demonstrates that he is beginning to anticipate the effect of your counting.
5. You can vary the activity by clapping or using other movements instead of bouncing.
6. Continue reading the counting books for as long as your child is interested. Place the books somewhere easily accessible so that he can look at them whenever he chooses.