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Count ‘em Cereal-Os

Let Me Count the Ways

Beginner: Pour cereal pieces (or another snack) into a bowl, scoop some out and count them.
[Tip]: Touch and move each piece as it is counted to prevent double-counting or missing one count.

Intermediate: Sort cereal pieces into piles of 10. Count pieces as you make and break ten.
[Tip]: Add to make ten (e.g., 9+1=10, 8 + 2=10), subtract to break ten (e.g 10-1=9, 10-8=2, etc.)

Experienced: Sort the pieces into piles of 3s, 4s, or 5s. Count the number of piles you have to practice multiplication.
[Tip]: Use your fingers to keep track of the number of piles counted (e.g., 3 piles/groups of 5 makes “5, 10, 15”; 3×5=15). Double check facts by counting the cereal pieces.

[Video Tip]: https://youtu.be/HawwbCymgSU

Why is this important? Counting is the foundation for understanding arithmetic.

References: National Research Council. (2009). Foundational mathematics content. In C. T. Cross, T. A. Woods, & H. Schweingruber (Eds.), Mathematics learning in early childhood: Paths toward excellence and equity (pp. 21-58). The National Academies Press. http://nap.nationalacademies.org/12519

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