



## All Paws On Deck!

Learning about Numbers is TOE-tally cool!

**Beginner:** Count animals and their body parts.

**[Tip]:** Ask HOW MANY do you see?

**Intermediate:** Using toy animals or animal drawings/cutouts, take turns guessing how many animals are in the group. Verify by counting.

**[Tip]:** Guess how many animals there are using group sizes of 1-6 animals.

**Experienced:** Use groups of body parts to count by multiples.

**[Tip]:** Use eyes to count by twos; animals with four legs to count by fours etc. “How many legs are there in total?” Count the legs of multiple animals put together. Compare with: “how many tongues are there in total?”

**Why is this important?** Counting practice improves number fluency and paves the way for advanced numeracy concepts. Counting, subitizing (knowing how many without counting) and knowing number vocabulary words support children’s numeracy development.

**References:** Cheeseman, J., Downton, A., Ferguson, S., & Roche, A. (2022). Meeting multiplicative thinking through thought-provoking tasks. *Mathematics Education Research Journal*, 35(4), 789–820. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13394-022-00413-1>