



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>