

# Little Counters

Strategies to Help Young Children Count

## Name it! Show it! Touch it! Move it!

- Start with a developmentally appropriate number of objects.
- Children under 3 years, start with three objects.
- Children 3-4 years use up to five objects.
- Anything and everything can be counted.
- Counting can happen anywhere and everywhere.
- Make it fun.

### Name it!

Name the number of objects you are about to count.



### Show it and say it!

Show the number with your fingers and count the objects.



### Touch it and say it!

Touch or point to the objects as you count them.



### Move it and say it!

Move the objects as you count them to create the set a short distance away and then say the total number of objects.



Always reinforce **cardinality** by asking "How many?" after child finishes counting the object set.

**Cardinality** is knowing that the last number counted is the total of the set (3 means 3 objects counted).