



Mathematics Family Letter, Unit: 5

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about Number Sense. The focus of this unit is on counting. Students develop visual images for quantities up to 10 as they roll dot cubes, work with Ten-Frames, and find many different ways to arrange a set of 5 to 10 tiles.

Students count and compare quantities throughout this unit. These activities support students as they make connections between counting and combining, which helps them begin to add and subtract small numbers. For example, they solve simple story problems and play games that ask them to figure out the total when 1, 2, and 3 are added or when 1 is taken away.

Concepts covered in this unit:

- Count a set of objects up to 30
- Figure out what is one more or one fewer than a number
- Reads number words zero through ten
- Identifies ordinal numbers first through tenth
- Writes numerals to match sets 0 to 20
- Shares objects equally between two to three people or sets

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

Related Activities to Try at Home

The following activities are related to the mathematics we are currently studying in school. Doing them with your child can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Counting and Writing Numerals We continue to focus on strategies for counting and writing numerals accurately. At home, find many ways to count together with your child; for example, count aloud, count sets of objects, ask your child to count out specific amounts, and pose problems that he or she can solve by counting. The list of suggested books below includes several counting books that you can read together.

Ordinal Positions Line up trucks or dolls in a row and have your child point and say the positions first through tenth. Then ask your child to point to the object that is in a particular position. For example, "Point to the third truck/doll."

One More or Fewer Find opportunities to ask your child about one more and one fewer, an idea we have been working on in class. For example, after your child counts a set of objects such as pennies, ask, "What if I gave you one more penny? Then how many would you have?" or "What if I took one penny back? Then how many would you have?" Then, add (or remove) a penny. That way, your child can recount the set from one to find out or to double-check the answer. Also, counting books that count up from one present "one more" situations; books that count backward present "one fewer" situations. (See list of books.)

Playing Double Compare We have been playing a card game called Double Compare that is similar to the familiar card game, *War*. This game uses the cards 0–6. Each player gets half the deck and puts the cards in a pile, facedown. Both players turn over their top two cards, and the person with the larger total says, "Me." Ask your child to explain how he or she knows which total is greater. The game is over when all of the cards have been turned over.

Math and Literature You can find these books in your local library and read them together. These books focus on measuring, counting forward, and counting backward.

Counting Forward

Falwell, Cathryn. Feast for 10.

Krebs, Laurie. We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania.

Mora, Pat. Uno, Dos, Tres, One, Two, Three.

Wormell, Christopher. Teeth, Tails and Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book.

Counting Backward

Dale, Penny. Ten in Bed.

Murphy, Stuart J. Monster Musical Chairs.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team