

Getting Children Counting Rose Griffiths, University of Leicester 2026
(It needs to be acknowledged as a not-for-profit film made for educational use, produced by Rose Griffiths at the University of Leicester with SureStart Leicester.)

(Section titles are narrated in English, Turkish, Bengali, Somali and French)

PART ONE: Children learn about counting by listening, watching and doing, from a very young age. Five languages

Clip 1: Sonia counts 1, 2, 3, with baby Jamie (23 months). *English*

Clip 2: Jaden (2) watches TV with his mum and baby Jasmine. *English*

Clip 3: Stephanie (3) sings “Two little dicky birds”. *English*

Clip 4: Jake (3) buys three apples. *English*

Often, the first written number children will recognise is their age.

Clip 5: Stephanie (3) looks at the number 3. *English*

Here’s Jaden when he was 11 months old:

Clip 6: Jaden looks at the book about trucks. *English*

18 months later, this is still one of Jaden’s favourite books.

Clip 7: Jaden (2) counts the wheels on the truck, and his mum gently acknowledges that he has missed one out. *English*

Clip 8: Stephanie stacks beakers. *English*

Clip 9: Asma (5) stacks beakers. *Pashto*

Children need to see you counting, to learn that we count one number for one thing.

Clip 10: Sonia counts cars for Bradley (12 months). *English*

Clip 11: Stephanie (3) counts cats in a counting book. *English*

Clip 12: Tasnim (3) and Tanzila (4) count apples in a book. *Bengali*

Clip 13: Stephanie (3) has her toes counted. *English*

PART TWO: Give children lots of chances to count things. Five languages

Clip 14: Jamie (3) and his mum count going downstairs. *English*

Counting backwards is really important.

Clip 15: Jamie (3) sings “Five little speckled frogs”. *English*

Clip 16: Jake (3) counts four footballs: 4, 3, 2, 1, none. *English*

Clip 17: Tejas (6) counts down on his fingers. *Gujerati*

It's good to count things lots of times together.

Clip 18: Rahma (5) counts with her big sister... *English/ Somali*

Children will have fun counting on their own – and if they don't know the numbers, they'll make them up!

Clip 19: ...and Rahma (5) counts on her own! *English*

Clip 20: Hibo counts Rahma's plaits. *English/ Somali*

Clip 21: Stella (3) counts actions, throwing a balloon. *English*

Children don't always realise they should count one number for one thing.

Clip 22: Stella counts money in handfuls. *English*

PART THREE: Make time to enjoy using numbers together. *Five languages*

Clip 23: Ayan (2) and his dad phone Pingu. *English*

Children can find numbers on all sorts of things.

Clip 24: Ahmet (5) presses numbers on the phone. *Turkish*

Clip 25: Stella (3) finds numbers on a calculator. *English*

It takes quite a while to learn how to write numbers.

Clip 26: Ahmet (5) has written numbers up to 30. *Turkish*

Show your child: always start at the top when you write a number.

Clip 27: Writing numbers 1 to 10.

Don't worry about doing too much writing. Counting backwards and forwards out loud is what is most important.

Clip 28: Achayla (4) sings "Five little monkeys" with her mum. *English*

Clip 29: Achayla (4) counts while she is on her swing. *English*

These notes accompany the film "Getting children counting", compiled by Rose Griffiths (University of Leicester) with the help of Jill Gray (Saffron Surestart), Fatima Fazel and Dorothy Reynolds (Sparkenhoe Primary School), and produced by Soft Touch, Leicester (© 2007).

Article:

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