



Counting in 2s, 5s & 10s

What you will need:

- 12 pairs of socks
- 6 pairs of gloves
- Paper & pens
- Chalk
- Washing line and pegs

Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s is an important step before children can really understand times tables. Counting can be lots of fun and you can play lots of games to support this skill!

Begin by brainstorming together things in real life that come in 2s, 5s and 10s. You could write these in chalk on the floor outside, or on large sheets of paper. This will provide context for children of where they can see numbers in their daily life.

Washing Line Counting

This activity can be changed and repeated for either 2s, 5s or 10s. In this explanation we will look at counting in 2s.

Gather up 12 pairs of socks (you can use more pairs if you wish, this number is the minimum). Write down the multiples of 2 up to 12×2 on pieces of paper. Ask your child to peg up the pairs of socks on the washing line, counting in 2s as they go. After all the socks are pegged up, ask your child to then choose a number and peg it with the correct pair of socks. For example, they pick up the number 6, they would need to peg it to the third pair of socks. Do this, until all socks have a matching number. Your child can now practise counting forwards and backwards in 2s.





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To use this activity for counting in 5s, repeat in the same way using a glove for each step of 5. To use this activity for counting in 10s, repeat in the same way using an outline of your child's feet (toes included!) for each step of 10.

Clap Counting

This is a simple clapping game that can be completed in a variety of ways for fun and challenge! You and your child will need to work together for this. Just follow these steps:

1. Face each other
2. Clap your own hands together
3. Clap your hands together with each other (like hi-tens)





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For this game, each time you clap your hands together (step 3), you both say the next number in the counting sequence. You can challenge yourselves to see what the largest number is you can get to before making a mistake, or the time it takes to count to 100. You could make it more challenging by taking it in turns to say the next number in the sequence, each time you clap. Try starting from a different number or try counting backwards to add challenge.

Scavenger Hunt

Ask you child to go on a scavenger hunt around your outdoor space (or you house) to find items which can be used for counting in 2s, 5s, 10s. *Leaves are really good for this* Focus on one counting sequence at a time and see how many different items they can find, counting as they go!

Hopscotch

Use chalk to create a hopscotch ladder. In the squares write out problems such as: 6 groups of 2, 4 groups of 10 etc. When your child throws their pebble onto a square, they then jump to the square and answer the question using their counting skills!





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Questions you could ask to extend the learning:

- Write out the multiples in the counting sequence, but miss some out, ask your child to fill in the blanks.
- How many wheels are there on 5 bicycles?
- There are 35 fingers, how many hands?
- How many 10s go into 30?

Problem Solving

' Tubes of tennis balls come in packs of 2 and 5. Whitney has 22 tubes of balls. How many of each pack could she have? How many ways can you do it? '

' On a pond, there were some ducks and some 5-legged frogs. Altogether there were 8 heads and 25 legs. How many ducks were there? '

