

Ordering Counting Sticks? Ordering Numbers

What You Will Need:

- Counting Sticks. Numbers 1 to 4. You will add others later.



What You Do:

1. Place Counting Sticks (1 through 4) on the table.
2. Model this activity*. Ask your child to arrange the sticks in order. If he needs prompting, point to the objects on one stick and then to another stick, while asking, “Which has more?” If he arranges them without prompting, ask him why he arranged them the way he did. If needed, assist him in his explanation by making observations, “I see this stick has more stickers than that one”. Or by asking questions, “Which stick has the most? Which has the least?”.

Next Steps:

1. As your child becomes competent**, add one more stick up to 10 sticks.

Gentle Reminder: It’s not about you telling your child how to do it. It’s about verbalizing your thinking while modeling the activity. Because you have already created thought patterns that bring you quickly to the right choice, you may find it challenging to verbalize your thinking. That’s ok. You can do it. Struggling is good. It’s not about your child getting the right answer the first try. It’s about her struggling to solve a problem and learning that struggling is good.

*** Modeling involves three steps.**

1. I do it.
2. We do it.
3. You do it.

**A child is considered “competent” when she can correctly do the activity without any prompting.