

Counting to Ten and Beyond Counting Cups



What You Need:

- 10 Bottle Caps.
- 10 cups which will hold ten items.
- Lots of counting items. Each item needs to fit into a bottle cap: pompoms, acorns, gems, stones, etc.
- Numbers: magnetic, plastic, DIY.

What You Do:

1. Place the bottle caps, a defined number of small objects and cups on the table. Start with 11 to 20 small objects.
2. Say, "Let's discover how many pompoms are on the table."
3. Encourage your child to place an object in each bottle cap. Assist him in counting as he puts each item into a cap.
4. When all the caps are full, count the pompoms again. Empty them into a cup. Say, "We are going to put the ten pompoms into this bigger cup." Encourage your child to put the remaining pompoms into caps. When all the pompoms are in caps, say, "Let's discover how many pompoms there are. We have one cup ten pompoms (point to cup) and three more."
5. Repeat with a different number of pompoms.



Next Steps:

1. When your child is competent with 20 or more small objects, add the numbers. Continue to say, "Two cups of ten and three more." Add the special name for two tens. "'Two tens' has a special name, it is twenty. So now we have twenty-three pompoms."
2. When your child is competent, demonstrating that she knows that two tens plus some more is twenty-__, introduce three tens, providing the special name for three tens – thirty.

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3. Repeat up to 99. Don't rush the process. The concept your child is building is essential to understanding all math.

Important Note:

When your child is ready to count beyond 10, use the following words instead of the traditional phrase of "eleven", "twelve" Use "ten and one", "ten and two" ... ten and nine". Sometime after your child has mastered the concept and name for 30, start to teach her the special name for "ten and one". Then "ten and two", etc. Be sure to use actual objects and the caps and cups. Remember, always work from the concrete to the abstract.