

How to Help Your Child Learn to Count at Home

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

During the first term, one of our major focuses for maths is counting. Even if your child may be able to recite the numbers up to 20 or even to 100, we will be focusing on developing your child's deep understanding of the numbers up to 10. For example, that 3 and 4 makes 7; 7 is one more than 6 and one less than 8; 7 and 3 more makes 10; and so on.

We have provided a short list of easy and fun crafts you can create and games to play with your child at home to support their learning in the classroom this term.



Pipe cleaner counting

Materials: Pipe cleaners and beads (Officeworks, Spotlight).

How to use: Use these to practise counting, with the numbers written at the top of each pipe cleaner.

Children can focus on one particular number, such as 5, figuring out all the ways to make it. For example, push 2 beads to the bottom and keep 3 at the top, "3 and 2 makes 5." Turn the pipe cleaner around. "2 and 3 makes 5." Push another bead to the bottom. "1 and 4 makes 5."

Also use these for subtraction. For example, start with the '4' pipe cleaner with all beads at the top. Show 4 take away 2 by pushing 2 beads down. "4 take away 2 leaves 2 at the top."



Counting Jars

Materials: Glasses or jars of any type.

How to use: Create collections of objects and count them. Put the glasses in order, as shown in the photo.

As an extra challenge, combine two jars as an addition problem (the 4 jar with the 2 jar), what's the total?



Secret Socks

Materials: Socks and marbles (or any small objects).

How to use: Create a collection of mystery socks. First, ask your child to estimate how many are in the sock by feeling it. Then tip out the objects and count them. Use 'tap and say,' touching each marble as they say the next number. Finally, arrange that number so it is easy to see. We call this using 'super hero maths eyes,' so children start to see small collections without even needing to count them. This is shown in the photo, with four gem stones arranged in the exact same way four looks on a 6-sided die.



Home Hopscotch

Children jump through a home hopscotch, counting as they land on each digit. To make the hopscotch more challenging, just draw dots on each landing spot (in the way the numbers are shown on dice) or write the names of the numbers in words (one, two, three). The hopscotch squares can be made from cardboard inside or chalk outside.



Feed the Frog!

Children feed frogs or any other bug made using craft materials. This can include a shark made from a cardboard box or a rock monster (a big box with googly eyes) that eats pebbles from the backyard. Children can be asked to feed a number to their creature or roll a 6-sided die to decide their creature's dinner.

Clothespeg Counting

Clip the matching number of pegs to Uno or playing cards that show each digit. This may seem simple; however, it is a critical foundational skill for the first year of school – matching digits to quantities. As an extra challenge, make your own cards that just show the names of the words (one, two, three). Assist your child to count the matching number of pegs and write the matching digit onto each card.



We have also attached a set of our digit roads, which use a traffic light system (green for go) to show where to start each digit and its correct formation. All digits start from the top and go down (not from the bottom). This is the same for the letters of the alphabet. One exception is 5, where students start with the neck, make its belly then add on its hat. It is common for students to reverse their numbers during the first year of school, but with practice we aim for all students to be correctly forming all digits as soon as possible. This ensures students have the best chance to create excellent muscle memories and foundational skills. Our classroom digit songs are copied here:

0: Around and around we go to make zero!

1: Start at the top and down you run for one!

2: Curve around and slide to the right.

3: Around the tree and around the tree, just like a 'B' for three!

4: Make an 'L,' then cut in half!

5: Neck, belly, hat!

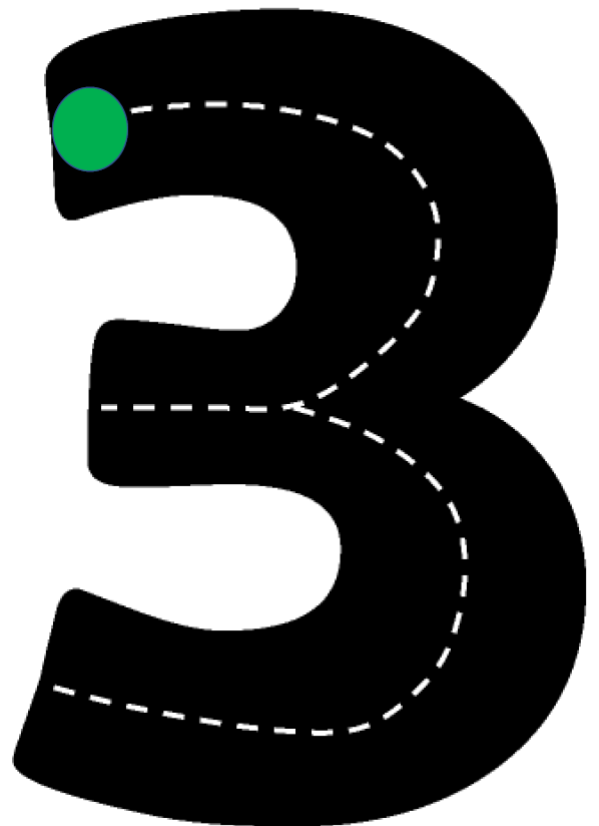
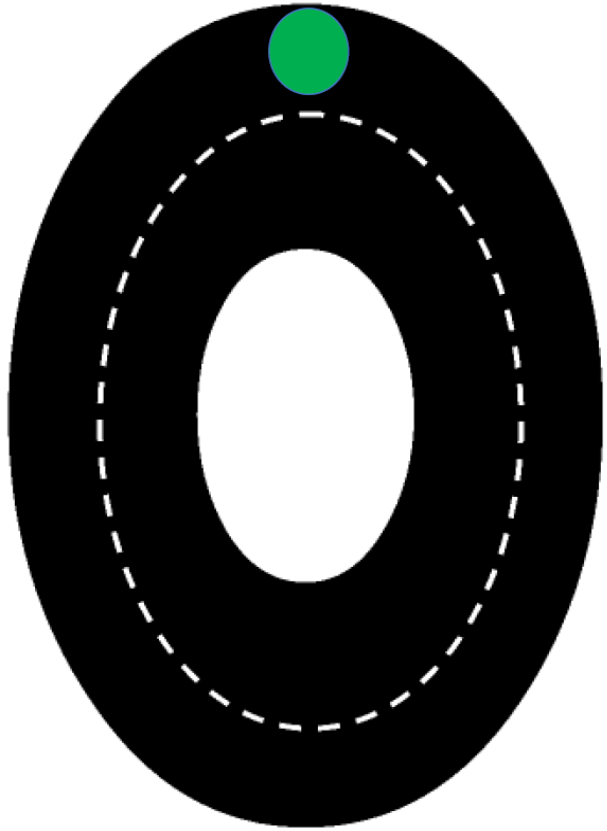
6: Curve it down like 'C' and curl it up.

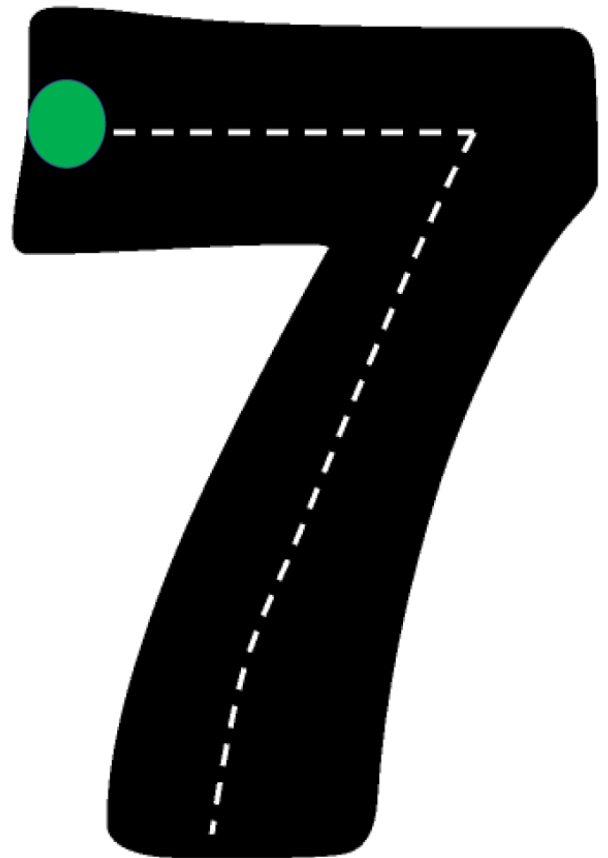
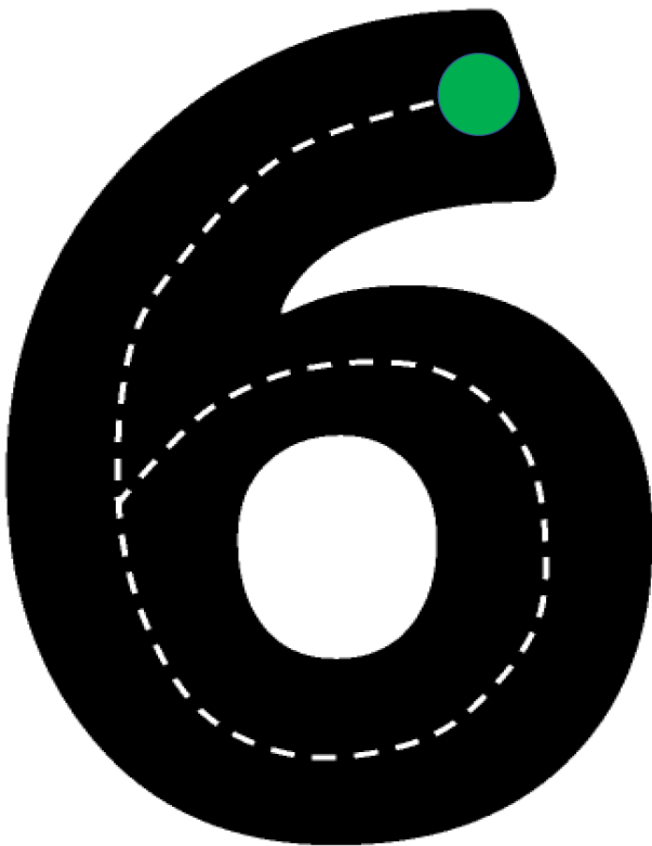
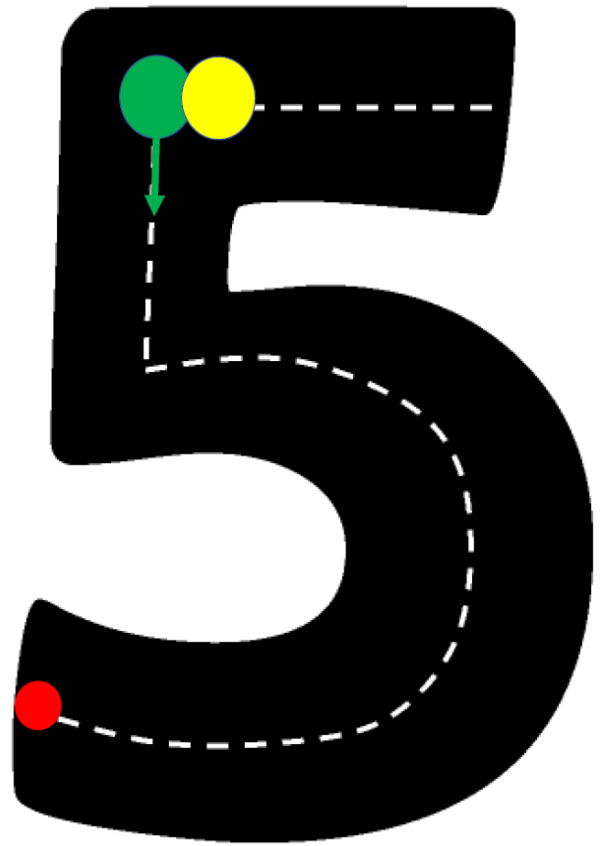
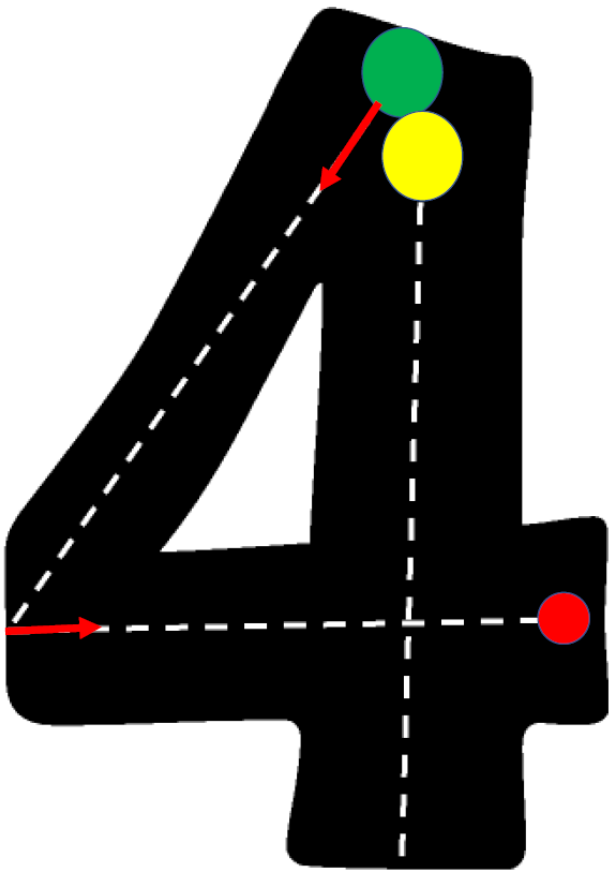
7: Slide to the side and slant it down.

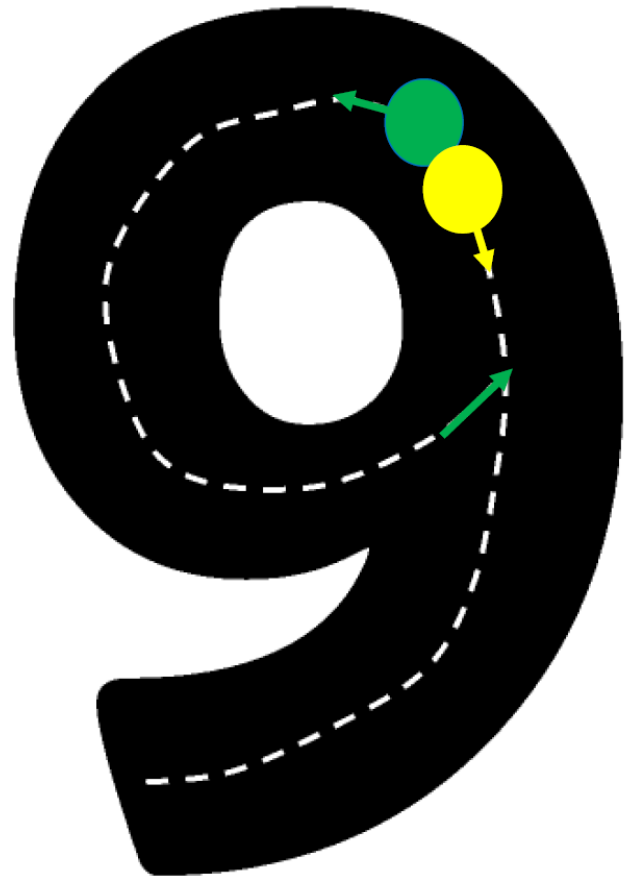
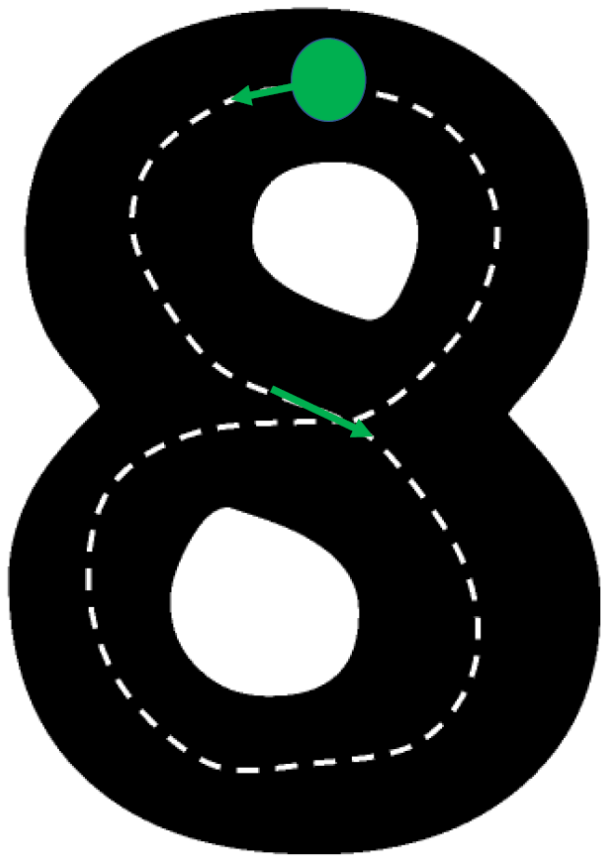
8: Make an 'S' and close the gate for eight.

9: A loop and a line to make nine.

We greatly appreciate your help and continued partnership in your child's learning journey.
Thank you!







Bingo

Roll a 6-sided dot die and aim to score bingo before your partner rolls all the numbers!

1	2	3
4	5	6

Race to 5



one

two

three

four

five

Race to 5



one

two

three

four

five

Pick out numbers from a bag of scrunched up post-it notes with 1, 2 and 3 written on them. Choose a figurine, such as a Lego character, and the first to pass 5 wins!