



LEARN YOUR NUMBERS





EXPLORATORY QUESTION: Let's get curious about numbers. How many pasta shells are in this pile? Lets count them out.

PROJECT GOAL: To work on numbers and simple addition using food and tools in the kitchen. Work on motor skills, counting, number recognition and even some color play.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ✓ 10 Cupcake papers, small jars, any small container will do
- ✓ Big scoop of uncooked elbow pasta shells or other small objects your child enjoys (you can do less if you want to just count up to 5)
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Colored pencils or markers
- ✓ Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Cut up paper so you have 10 squares or rectangles and number them 1 through 10. Include your little one in this step, they can help you count as you write the number.
 - 2 Lay out your 10 cupcake papers or whatever containers you'll be using with the numbers in front of them.
 - 3 Gather your objects in a big pile.
 - 4 Let the counting begin! Start by first laying out the number of pasta shells, or whatever objects you're using, in front of the corresponding number. Start with 1 and move up. Count as you go! One pasta shell, two pasta shells... have your little one make piles in front of the numbers.
 - 5 Now let's put the shells into the containers. Have you and your little one count as they drop each object into the container. "One, two, three, four, five. Five pasta shells".



-  **TIP:** Look at the numbers and talk about their shapes as well. For example, the number one stands tall or looks like a straight line. What does the number six look like? Can you make the shape with your body? Lots of opportunities to play here.
- 6 Clean up. If you want to keep your materials to play it again grab a big jar/tupperware or container and count as you clean up. Put all the pasta/objects in the jar, with the numbers and even the cupcake papers. Come up with a fun name for the game so your little one can ask to play it again with you.