



Children's Museum of Houston

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**Counting Craze**

**Background**

Children need experience counting different objects that are represented in many different ways. Repeated experiences with counting will help young children understand that the last number they say when counting objects tells them 'How Many' objects in all. When a child has mastered counting forward, try counting groups of objects in reverse. For example, if you have 10 pieces of cereal, touch each one and count backwards 10, 9, 8, 7...

**What you will do**

Practice counting objects found on patterned wrapping paper or fabric.

**What you need**

Wrapping paper or fabric (Use a one foot piece that has a pattern of countable objects like an animal, birthday presents, etc.)

Counters (beans, coins, or similar object will work)

**What to do**

1. Examine the wrapping paper or fabric.
2. Place a counter on each of the objects you are counting. For example, if you are counting stripes on a piece of wrapping paper that has dots and stripes, just place a counter on each stripe.
3. Touch and count each counter to find out how many objects there are.
4. Count a different object on the paper or fabric.

**Questions to ask**

- Which object can you find the most of on the paper (or fabric)?
- Do you notice any patterns?
- How many objects are on the paper (or fabric) altogether?