

Counting: Count from 0 in 2s, 3s, and 5s. Use this to count objects or dots in 2s, 3s, and 5s.

Skip counting patterns using a 100 square and plastic counters

You will need a 100 square and a box of small, round counters which hide the numbers. Encourage the child to place a counter on every second number, so 2, 4, 6, 8 and so on. On reaching 20, ask the child to lift each counter in turn, repeating the number that is hidden. This can be practiced a few times until they can skip count in twos without using the 100 square. Repeat this same process to count in 3s to 30 and 5s to 50.

Challenge: Do the same process but backwards! Start at 20 and count backwards in 2s. Start at 30 and count backwards in 3s. Start at 50 and count backwards in 5s. You could also skip count from different starting points. For example, skip count in 2s from 12, 5s from 15 and so on.

Body Percussion

Together with the child, count out loud once from one to twenty. Repeat the out loud counting but instead of saying the intervening number 1, 3, 5 (and so on, for counting in 2s) replace the number with a “clap” or “stamp”. So “clap 2 clap 4 clap 6” and so on. This activity can also be used when learning multiplication tables. (Also quiet/loud: 1 **2** 3 **4** 5 **6** ...)

Additional ideas: You could use different sounds for the skip counted numbers such as “buzz”, “bang” etc. Make it fun, the child should be smiling or laughing during this activity! You could also take it in turns when skip counting in 3s and 5s. This will work on listening skills and counting skills. For example if practicing counting in 3s, you start by saying 1. The child says 2, then you clap and say 3. They say 4, you say 5 and they clap and say 6.

Some other variations include: “buzz, bang, 3, buzz, bang, 6...” and so on. There are unlimited possibilities so get creative!

Giant jump counting!

This activity works well outside if it is possible. Draw a long line on the playground in chalk (about 2 metres). With the child, write the numbers from 0-20 at regular intervals (about one pace apart). Once all the numbers are written, ask the child to start at zero and literally “jump count” in 2s, saying each number loudly when they land on it. Repeat with jump counting in 3s and 5s. Just make sure the space between the numbers isn’t too big for them to reach in one jump!

Additional ideas: Some schools may have a giant 100 square in the playground, you can use that for “jump counting” both forwards and backwards. If you cannot go outside, you can use paper on the floor. Write each number from 0-20 and space out around the room in a circle/straight line/rectangle etc. Childs can jump to each number as they are skip counting in the same way as they would outside.