

NEXT NUMBER FLUENCY

An Activities Guide for Families

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At Home Activities

Popcorn Counting

You say a number, your child says the next number, you say the one after that, and so on (e.g., You: "15," Child: "16," You: "17," Child: "18"). See how fast you can go before someone makes a mistake.

Three in a Row

Instead of just asking for the next number, challenge them to give you the next three numbers. You shout a starting number like "42!" and they have to immediately reply with "43, 44, 45!"

The "Silly Mistake" Game

Tell your child you are going to count out loud, but you might make a mistake. Count up from a random number and purposely skip a number (e.g., "31, 32, 33, 35..."). Your child has to yell "Gotcha!" and tell you the number that was actually supposed to come next.

The "One More" Story

Turn counting into a micro-story. Say, "I saw 24 birds sitting on a fence. Then, one more bird landed. What number is next?" Keep the stories quick and focus entirely on adding exactly one more to a given quantity.

Imaginary Number Toss

Pretend or throw an actual ball and say a number (e.g., "19!"). Your child "catches" the ball, shouts the next number ("20!"), and then thinks of a new number to say as they throw it back to you.

Stair Predictions

If you are walking up a flight of stairs (or stepping on sidewalk cracks), count your steps out loud. Pause halfway up and ask, "We are on step 11. What number will our foot hit on the very next step?"

Did You Know?

Zero wasn't always a number. The concept of zero as a standalone digit was invented independently in only a few places: by the Mayans in the Americas, and in ancient India (which was later adopted and spread by Islamic scholars).



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Did You Know?

Roman numerals do not include a symbol for zero. If a Roman trader had no goods left, they used the word nulla (meaning "none") rather than a numerical digit.

