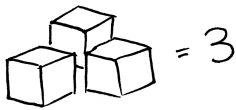


The Meaning of Zero

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Cognitive

What You Need:



- 10 buttons or other small items to count
- Jumbo crayons or washable markers
- Paper

! Safety Alert: Remind your child not to put small objects in his mouth. They can get stuck in his throat and cause choking (and even death). When you are done using small objects, put them away where your child cannot reach them. Childproofing your home creates a safe place for your child to explore and learn.

What To Do:

1. Gather 10 blocks or buttons and place them in a pile. Count them together. Ask your child, "If I take them all away, what do I have left? I have nothing, zero. Zero means nothing."
2. Write down a few numbers and have your child place the number of buttons or blocks that match each number next to it. Write a "zero" but do not put any buttons or blocks next to it.
3. Discuss some examples of having zero or nothing. For example, "How many grapes will you have in your bowl after you eat them all?" "When you make a loud noise and all the birds fly away, how many birds are left?" "Uncle picked all of the mangos from the tree. How many mangos are on the tree?"



Learning to Grow

University of Hawai'i Center on the Family (CTAHR)

www.learningtogrowhawaii.org

Learning to Grow
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER