

### Counting on a tray.

Counting objects on a tray is a simple but effective way to help with learning to count.

Start with up to 5 objects of a similar kind and put them on the tray. Count them.

Keep the same number of objects and move them around and ask again how many of them there are.

At first children will count them all again. It takes quite a while before children realise that the number of objects is not affected by their position.



Later, two or three different types of object can be placed on the tray. Again, it takes children a while to realise that the number of objects is not affected by size or whether or not they are of the same type.

You are probably familiar with Kim's Game which is great for counting and improving memory.

Show your child the objects on the tray, let them count them, talk about them.

Then put a cloth over the tray and remove one object. Take away the cloth – can they remember which object has been removed?

Of course this can get harder so that it is even a challenge for adults!