

## Counting Around the House

Help your child practice counting in a variety of fun contexts around the house! Examples include:

### Mealtimes

- *How many pieces of cereal are in this bowl?* Have your child estimate and then count to check!
- *How many utensils do we have?* When setting the table, have your child count the number of forks, spoons, and knives. How many utensils does your family use at one meal?
- *How many crackers are in this cup?* Have your child arrange the crackers in groups of 2, 5, or 10 to count the total.

### Helping Out Around the House & Self Care

- *How many socks do we have?* When doing laundry, have your child count the socks before matching them up. After matching them in pairs, count by 2s. Discuss how the total number of socks is the same no matter how you count them!
- *How many toys are there?* Encourage your child to count when cleaning up toys, puzzles, stuffed animals, etc. You can even count the toys ahead of time to determine the total, and count down from the total number while cleaning up. (For example, “5, 4, 3, 2, 1. That’s the last teddy bear!”)
- *How many teeth do you have?* When brushing teeth, help your child count their teeth. Count your own teeth. Do you have the same number of teeth as your child? Finish brushing, then talk about it!

For each collection of objects that your child counts, encourage them to count slowly and point to each object as they count. For large collections, it may also be helpful for children to move each object as they count so it is clear which objects still need to be counted.

Videotape your child counting around the house and share your video in the “[UChicago Ready, Set, STEM!](#)” Facebook group in the [Topic: Counting Around the House](#).

Find more activities like this at: <http://www.ucreadyssetstem.com>  
*Ready, Set, STEM is developed at the University of Chicago and  
sponsored by The Boeing Company*

