

COUNTING BACKWARD WITH MOVEMENT

Purpose: Students will use manipulatives and body movements to learn to count backwards and also to understand the concept of something becoming smaller or less plentiful.

Suggested Grade Level: K

Math SOL: Number and Number Sense K.1, K.2

Equipment/Materials Needed: None

Directions:

1. Count backwards with the students from 10-0 to reinforce rote memory of backwards counting.
2. Use teddy bear counters or other manipulatives to help students visualize the difference between 10 objects, 9 objects, 8 objects etc. Begin by showing 10 teddy bears, then take one away and have them count how many are left. Then take one more away and have them count the number of bears left. Continue in this way until there are no more bears.
3. Ask students for examples in life of taking things away. For example, a pizza with 10 slices becomes a pizza with nine slices when one is eaten. When another one is eaten it has only eight slices etc.
4. Talk about a farmer picking apples off of a tree and there being fewer and fewer apples as he picks them.
5. Have the students pantomime picking apples from a tree as they count backwards from ten to nine. With each number, the teacher calls, the students stretch one arm up to pick the imaginary apple and put it in an imaginary basket on the floor.
6. Model the correct motion for the students and show them how to alternate the arm that they pick the apple with so that both sides of the body are stretched.
7. Have students pick the apples again, but this time they should do it faster while counting backwards faster than before.

Modifications/Variations:

1. Use lesson above with forward counting and with other number sequences.
2. Modify above lesson to demonstrate a growing pattern where something becomes larger, for example, building a block tower or adding layers to a giant sandwich.

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