

# PETE'S GROOVY BUTTONS COUNTING GAME (inspired by the story by Eric Litwin)

Use your buttons, your felt shirts, and your dice to practice simple addition and subtraction games with your kids!

## What you need:

- A pile of buttons
- A felt or paper shirt
- A dice

## Simple Addition Game (youngest player goes first):

1. Take turns rolling the dice to see how many buttons to put on your shirt.
2. The player with the most buttons at the end of the game, wins.

Help your child learn simple addition by helping them count the number of buttons they started with, and the number of buttons they are adding, before reiterating the total number of buttons on the shirt at the end of each turn. "You had four buttons, and then you added three more. How many buttons do you have now? Let's count! Now you have seven!"

## Simple Subtraction Game (youngest player goes first):

1. Start with 20 buttons on each shirt.
2. Roll the dice to take buttons off of the shirt.
3. The player who clears the shirt first, wins.

Help your child learn simple subtraction by helping them count the number of buttons they started with, as well as the number of buttons being removed, before helping them count the total that are left. "You had 20 buttons, then you took away 4 buttons. How many are left? Let's count them!"



How many other ways can you think of to play?

	<u>Number Concepts</u>	<u>Storybook Strategies</u>	<u>Daily Activity ideas</u>
<p><b>One</b> </p> <p><b>Two</b> </p> <p><b>Three</b> </p>	<p><b>Counting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counting words</li> <li>Counting in sequence</li> <li>Meaning behind the numbers</li> </ul>	<p>Build <b>one-to-one correspondence</b> by <i>touching each object</i> as you count it</p>	<p>Children count objects like buttons on their shirts as they get dressed</p> <p>Count and pick up leaves on a nature walk</p>
	<p><b>Numeral Identification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attaching a written symbol to a number</li> <li>A number is different than a letter</li> </ul>	<p>Ask questions about a page in a book like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where is the number 2? Can you point to it?</li> <li>Can you trace the number?</li> <li>Where is the word "one"?</li> <li>What letter does "one" start with?</li> </ul>	<p>"I Spy" Numbers in the grocery store or on a walk to school</p> <p>Point out a child's birthday on a calendar</p>
	<p><b>Cardinality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last number counted represents the total quantity of objects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinforce <b>cardinality</b> by <i>circling all objects after counting</i>.</li> <li>Match your pointing fingers with the numbers you are saying</li> <li>Say: "There are three ducks"; instead of just 'three'.</li> </ul>	<p>Count fingers/toes</p> <p>Count number of children in class, or number of people in the family</p>
	<p><b>Simple Addition and Subtraction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add or take away one or two objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover one object with your hand and ask a question like: "How many animals are there now that the elephant left?"</li> <li>Ask: "What if one more animal comes, then how many would there be?"</li> </ul>	<p>Mealtime, clean-up time, and sharing are great opportunities to practice simple addition and subtraction.</p> <p>"You had ten grapes but you shared them with us. How many do you have now?"</p>
	<p><b>Subitization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowing how many are in a group without having to count</li> </ul>	<p>Ask children to identify small quantities of pictures in books without counting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with quantities one and two, before increasing to three and four</li> </ul>	<p>Point out small quantities throughout the day</p> <p>Subitize larger quantities by dividing them into smaller groups. "3 buttons on top and 3 on bottom is 6 buttons"</p>