

# Counting



Counting is about Quantification and Comparison.

You learn counting by first memorizing a list of sounds (“one”, “two”, “three”) you hear in a song and then you learn that position in the song determines which of two numbers is larger. The sound for five comes after the sound for three so five is larger than three.

You also develop the notion of adjacent numbers.

Counting helps with work. Imagine that we are with Alice on an island where we give 35 coconuts to a ship that arrives weekly. The coconuts pay for the bottles of Pepsi that we want. A number like 32 means we need to keep working and a number like 37 means “oh, we’re already done!” This sort of thinking sets us up for ideas like ‘less than’ and ‘greater than’.

$32 < 35$

$37 > 35$

Why work to 37 when you are done at 35? The notion of hitting the right number on the number sets us up for the idea of “Equals”.