

**Learning Focus—Comparing and Ordering Numbers 1 to 10**

This module gives your child experiences with using the language of order to describe a sequence of objects or people, comparing quantities and numbers up to 5, and ordering quantities and numbers up to 10.

**Use ordinal language to describe a sequence of objects or people**

Ordinal numbers are those that describe position in a sequence. When children are introduced to ordinal numbers, it is essential they begin their learning by hearing the words *first*, *second*, *third*, and *last*, and exploring ordinal numbers by visualizing, acting out, and representing relevant situations. For example, you might say, “Where is the red car? The red car is third in line.”



When stopped in traffic, ask your child to describe the ordinal position of your car. For example, “At the traffic light, our car is second in line.” When eating breakfast, talk about who finishes first, second, and third. When getting ready in the morning, talk about who is last to put their clothes on.

**Compare quantities and numbers up to 5**

Children who can distinguish between two quantities, then compare the quantities to see whether they are more, fewer (or less), or the same are more likely to have better numeracy skills later in elementary school. This skill can take time to develop, so work begins with quantities of one to five, and gradually moves to comparing the numbers that represent those quantities.



At meals, ask your child to compare the quantities of items on their plate. For example, they may have three carrot sticks, but only one celery stick. While shopping, ask your child to compare numbers of items, for example, the number of shirts they tried on compared to the number of pants they tried on. Play a card game at home using cards with the numbers 1 to 5 only. As each of you play a card, ask your child which number is more or less than that card.

**Order quantities and numbers up to 10**

After experiences with comparing quantities, ordering quantities is the next step in conceptual understanding. Ordering numbers means understanding that numbers have a certain sequence and this is the foundation for understanding the relative position of a number. Relative position is the idea that you know a number by recognizing a neighboring number. For example, “Six comes next after five,” or “Six is more than five.”



Play a game at home using numbered playing cards only. Give one shuffled suit of cards to your child, and keep one for yourself. Then race to see who can put the cards in order the fastest.

Write the numbers 1 to 10 on sticky notes and stick them around your home. Ask your child to search for the sticky notes and then place them in order on the table.

**Please help by sending the following:**

Small toy car

One small stuffed toy