

## Building Blocks weeks 1 & 2

During the first weeks of Building Blocks we introduce the idea that **math is numbers, shapes and patterns**. Counting tells **how many**. Each counting word relates to **one** and only one object. Groups can be named with numbers (**cardinality**). Numbers can make rhythmic patterns. Children begin to “see” in numbers: instead of seeing just dots, they see 3 dots. Some children don’t know how to verbally count in the correct order, most don’t subitize, some can subitize but can’t count one to one. These early weeks in Building Blocks offer essential foundational activities and build skills that are crucial for the math to come later on.

**Whole Group Activities:** Do at least one *WG* activity **every day**. It is important to remember that these activities don’t necessarily have to be done in morning circle time. They can be done when children are waiting to go to the bathroom, or waiting for lunch to arrive. They can be done multiple times a day in different places.

This Old Man, Count and Move, When I was One, Counting Wand, Number Me\*, Two Little Blackbirds, **Snapshots**.



**Snapshots:** Important activity to help develop subitizing skills. This is **NOT** a counting activity. Counting defeats the purpose and can actually stop children from subitizing. Its purpose is to recognize quantity **without** counting. When you do Snapshots ask “*how many did you see?*” accept all answers even if wrong. You can say “*Jose saw two, Andrea saw three...etc., Lets look again*” When you are finished you can quickly say I see three and count one, two, three, but don’t ask children to count.

**\*Number Me:** First time do it straight (how many arms do you have?) so children understand that they are naming the number of body parts. Next time make it silly. Tell children you will try to trick them so they have to listen carefully and stop you if you make a mistake. Then ask them to show you their 2 noses, or 3 ears etc.,

**Computer:** Wk. 1 **Count and Race**. Wk. 2 **Kitchen Counter**