



Hi! My name is Maricel!

Living in poverty, I thought that a parent's only job is to provide her children with food and a house. Through Family Academy, I've learned that parenting is so much more. I've realized how important it is to create a caring environment so that my child can learn to have confidence. I've started devoting an hour a day to playing and learning with my son, and Xyron has picked up an interest in counting and learning.

Every moment playing with our children helps, so let's get to it!

LET'S COUNT THINGS AROUND US

SKILL: Object counting, Vocabulary

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Select 10 objects that are small and easy to count.
You may look around the house for cups, coins, bottle caps, etc.
2. Shuffle the cards and place them in a pile. Picture side up, numeral side down.
3. Pick the card on top of the pile, turn it over to show the number, and place it in front of your child.
4. Say the number and ask your child to find that number of objects. Help your child count the correct number of objects if they need.
5. Turn the card over to show the pictures on the back and see if the number of pictures matches the number of objects you have collected.



Parent: This is the number 2. Can you bring me 2 bottle caps?

Child: (brings two bottle caps)



Parent: Let's check your work. If we have the same number of cows as bottle caps your work is correct. Can you count the cows?

Child: (excited) 1, 2!

Parent: And we have 1, 2 bottle caps! Good job!



Do the same for other numbers.

GROUPING THINGS THAT BELONG TOGETHER

SKILL: Object counting, Vocabulary
Similar characteristic or function
(Same and different)

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Select three kinds of things that can be classified together. For example, books, toys, coins.
2. Point and say the name and the use of one of the items in each group.
3. Ask your child to point and say the name of each item as you have done.
4. Mix all these items together and ask your child to arrange them in their specific group.



Parent: These are things we use to write. This is a pen. It is used to write on paper. Can you say "pen"?

Child: Pen.

Parent: Good! And this is a marker. Markers are used for writing on paper too. (Continue like this for all the things in this category.)

Parent: These are things we can read. This is a book. It is for reading. Can you say "book"?

Child: Book.



Parent: This is a smaller book, but it is also for reading. So these go together.

(Continue going introducing all the categories and items.)



Parent: These are toys. We like to play with toys. You know a lot about toys already, don't you?

Child: Yes. And this one's my favorite!

Parent: Ok. Now I am going to mix up all these things. Can you group the things that belong together? Which type of thing should we get first?

Child: Books!



If that was too easy, you can always grab more things around your house or have your child think of categories.



PARENTING TIPS

Be a role model of an attentive participant in playing games and when you listen to others.



I've seen Xyron begin to love learning and now I know that even when parenting is hard, seeing your child grow is priceless.