

NUMBER RECOGNITION AND SUBITIZING STRETCHES ACROSS THE ELOF DOMAINS

The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) provides language to help teachers, family child care providers, and home visitors understand child development and what children should know and be able to do to succeed in school. The ELOF supports effective program and teaching practices* that promote strong outcomes for all children, including children with disabilities or suspected delays and children who are dual or tribal language learners. Number recognition and subitizing are in multiple ELOF goals within the Cognition goals for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- Goal IT-C 8 describes how children develop a sense of number and quantity.
 - Infants are sensitive to numbers and can naturally compare or recognize the difference between small and large numbers.
 - Some children learn their first number words by 18 months. They usually learn “two” first. They can also recognize very small numbers without counting. This is the development of subitizing!



FOR PRESCHOOLERS

- Goal P-Math 2 describes children’s ability to recognize the number of objects in a small set.
 - Preschoolers can recognize the number of objects in a small group (less than 2-3 objects) without counting (subitizing).
 - When preschoolers practice this skill, they become faster at recognizing the number of objects in a group...and can quickly recognize up to 5 objects in a group!



*For home visitors: Teaching practices mean providing effective and engaging learning experiences and interactions with children that support important learning outcomes.