



BRAINSTORMING

What is number recognition? Number recognition is the ability to tell *how many* objects are in a small set without counting them (given all the time they need to observe the group of objects). We distinguish this skill from subitizing (defined below) because children recognize how many are in a small set but may not do so quickly.

What is subitizing? Subitizing is the ability to tell how many objects are in a group *quickly* without counting them.

Infants and toddlers can recognize small groups of up to three objects. For example, children may say “one mommy,” “two cars,” or “three crackers.” **By three years old**, they may put their toys or objects into groups of up to three. This is called **perceptual subitizing**.

Preschoolers, after learning perceptual subitizing up to and beyond 4, can begin to see parts of multiple small sets of objects and can quickly put together the total number of objects without counting. For example, a child might say, “I knew there was 6 because I saw 4 here and 2 there.” This is called **conceptual subitizing**.

Brainstorm ways that you can help your child learn number recognition and subitizing during each of the routines below. For assistance, work with your child’s teacher or home visitor.

ROUTINE	NUMBER RECOGNITION	SUBITIZING
PLAY TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count the number of cars on the track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saying the number of dots on a domino without counting
MEAL TIME		
BATH TIME		
GROCERY STORE		
NEIGHBORHOOD WALK/OUTSIDE		