



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 24 to 30 Months

Just "One"

Learning the concept of just "one" is one of the first math concepts introduced to young children.

Materials:

- Groups of objects (socks, block, toy cars)

What to do:

1. Let the child help when grocery shopping by choosing one head of lettuce or one carton of milk. Emphasize while doing daily activities that you need one object and assist the child in helping you select one towel or one spoon.
2. Use objects that come in pairs to emphasize the concept of one. When the child is looking for her shoes, say, "You only found one shoe. Where is the other one?" When helping the child put on her coat, hide one hand in her sleeve and say, "Look! I can only see one hand. Is that all you have?" When playing in front of a mirror, point out the child's two eyes, two ears, two cheeks, and then count just one nose: "Where's your other nose? Oh you only have one nose? How many noses do you have? Just one."
3. Have the child help set the table for snack or lunchtime. Ask the child to put one cookie on each napkin or one spoon on each plate. You may need to help the child step by step the first few times.
4. Ask when the child has her trucks lined up for play to put one animal in each truck.

