

Pick Your Chickens

What should be included:

- 4 chicken coop game boards
- 24 chicken cards
- 10 plastic Easter eggs (with counting objects)
- 1-10 number cards
- 1 egg carton (with 12 shape eggs)
- 4 small containers
- Crayons
- Paper
- Book – Llama, Llama

Play Plan:

To begin just let your child explore the plastic Easter eggs with counting objects in them. It is okay if they get all the counting objects mixed together because then you and your child can sort them back into the eggs – which is actually a great activity 😊! When you feel like your child is ready to have directed play with the plastic eggs and counters, try the following:

- **Number Match**
 - Get out the number cards and lay them out in order from 1-10 where your child can see all ten. Help your child point to each number as you count together. Then have your child hide his/her eyes and you take out one of the numbers, then have your child look at the numbers in line again and see if he/she can tell you what number is missing. *If your child has trouble telling you which number is missing help him/her to start back at number 1 and point and count each number until he/she gets to the spot with the missing number. Then place the number back in its correct spot and try this again. For more of a challenge, try taking out 2-3 numbers each time your child hides his/her eyes.
 - Next take one plastic egg at a time (which should have the objects to count back in them), have your child take out all the objects of that one egg and count how many objects he/she has and then place the objects on the number card that tells you how many objects you have. Continue this process until all eggs have been counted and objects placed on a number card. *If your child is having trouble counting the objects correctly, try placing the objects in a line and have him/her touch each object as a number is being said. For more of a challenge, divide the group of objects into 2 groups and see if your child can **look** at one group and say how many objects are in that group (without having to point and count each object to know how many) and

then start with the next number and count the objects in the second group. Example: Egg has 7 objects total – divide that into a group of 3 objects and 4 objects. You can hold the two groups in your hands, first show your child the hand with 3 objects he/she just says “3” (without having to count each object) and then show your child the hand with 4 objects and your child starts pointing and counting the objects in this hand at “4” instead of 1. So, what your child says would be “3” (first hand of objects) then “4,5,6,7” (counting each object in your second hand) to still get to the total number of 7.

***The activities above practice skills that your child will be working on in Kindergarten.**

- **Pick Your Chickens**

- Have your child choose a chicken coop game board, and look at and say the numbers on the card. Then turn the stack of chicken cards face down and have your child turn over the top card on the stack. He/she can then count how many chickens are on the card and see if he/she has that number on the chicken coop game card. If your child has the correct number, he/she places the chicken card in the chicken coop - if not just place that card to the side. Continue play until the chicken coop is full. *You can add a little competition to this activity by you also playing with your own chicken coop. You can still have your child count and match the cards you draw for your turn and your chicken coop (for the most practice counting and matching numbers). Then whoever fills their chicken coop first is the winner.

Book Activity:

Read the **Llama Llama** book with your child. Llama Llama books usually have a good lesson in them and are a good topic to talk about during and after you finish reading the book with your child.

- The first time you read the book you can have your child “**predict**” what he/she thinks might happen next and at the end you can discuss what did happen and how it can apply to something in your child’s experiences.
- Next explain the difference between a “**letter**” and a “**word**”. Using the title of the Llama, Llama book, point to each word in the title as you read it. First, you read the title and clap each time you say a word. Next, have your child clap with you as you read each word in the title. When your child has an understanding of what you are doing, **YOU point** to each word in the title as you read it and let your **CHILD clap** for each word.
- After you read the book and discuss what happened, have your child draw something that happened in the story. Then have your child tell you what they drew and then you write a few words about what your child said or you can label parts of your child’s picture.

***The point of these activities is to introduce your child to the understanding that what we say when we read is represented by words, and words are made of letters which are skills he/she will be working on in Kindergarten.**

Big Body Movement:

First, allow your child to just jump around on the pogo jumper. When you feel he/she is ready to use the pogo jumper in directed activities, try the following:

- **Jumping Numbers**

- Using the number cards (1-10), hold up one number at a time. Have your child say the number and then see if he/she can jump that many times without falling off of the pogo jumper. Continue until you have worked with all 10 numbers.
- To help your child understand the difference in numbers and amounts each represents, have your child start at the same place each time you show him/her a number and he/she jumps forward on each jump. Then you can talk about how the numbers that give you a small amount (of jumps in this case) don't get you as far as numbers that give you a large amount (of jumps).

- **Shape Eggs**

- Take the carton of eggs and let your child have some time to just play and get familiar with them. When you feel your child is ready for directed play, try the following:
 - Take the carton of eggs and take one half of each egg out of the carton and place that half into the provided containers (3 eggs in each of the 4 containers)
 - Take each of the four containers and one of the number cards (you can choose any four numbers) place at 4 different spots around your play area. Then take the egg carton (which still contains one half of each egg) and place it at a chosen "starting spot".
 - Have your child start at the "starting Spot" with the pogo jumper and you say the name of one of the numbers that is next to a container with eggs in it. Have your child jump to that container, pick up an egg half, jump back to the starting spot and match it to the correct egg half in the carton. Continue to call out different numbers until all eggs have been matched.

***This is a good activity to allow practice on any of the numbers that your child is still not familiar with, because you can choose any 4 of the ten numbers and your child goes to the same number three times during one game.**

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!