



Mysteries of Math Revealed: 1:1 Correspondence

1:1 Correspondence Definition:

Count one item for each number word.

Number Sense Definition:

Fluidity and flexibility with numbers

4 Steps for Success

1. Understand WHAT 1:1 Correspondence is
2. Understand WHY 1:1 Correspondence is so important in the early years
3. Examples of fun, playful, and meaningful 1:1 techniques and activities you can incorporate into your classroom routine
4. Action Plan



Step 1: Understanding WHAT is 1:1 Correspondence?

- ✓ It can take many months or even an entire year for young children to begin to grasp the concept of 1:1 correspondence.
- ✓ It is important to provide our students with plenty of opportunities to practice one-to-one correspondence skills all year long.
- ✓ When young children are first learning how to count, they don't always know they need to touch one object for each number word.
- ✓ When children become aware that they need to touch one counter for each number said, they are beginning to learn how to count.
- ✓ 1:1 correspondence skills are like an onion, this skill has more than one layer. Children progress through different stages of understanding as they learn this skill.

Step 2: Understanding WHY 1:1 Correspondence is Important

Understanding how to count and link one number with each object will help children:

- ✓ Carry out meaningful counting
- ✓ Perform higher calculations
- ✓ Count with understanding

Without well-developed 1:1 correspondence skills, children may struggle with future math skills.



Step 3: 1:1 Correspondence Activities

- ✓ Identify opportunities for developing 1:1 skills that are already embedded into your daily routine:
 - Snack Time – How many do we need?
 - Attendance Routine – How many are here?
 - Centers – Do we have enough?
 - Recess – Games like Duck, Duck, Goose
- ✓ Free Printable Pre-K Pacing Guide: www.teachingtrailblazer.com
- ✓ [Ice Cube Tray Game](#)
- ✓ Found objects, or loose parts
- ✓ [List of Math Picture Books for Pre-K and Kindergarten](#)
- ✓ [Mouse Count Activity](#)
- ✓ [Give a Dog a Bone Activity](#)
- ✓ [The Big Red Barn Activity](#)
- ✓ [Tennis Ball Fine Motor Game](#)
- ✓ [5 Little Ducks in the Pond Game](#)
- ✓ [Penguin Counting Game](#)
- ✓ Simple Path Games (in Nursery Rhyme packets in Vault)
- ✓ Group Path Games (in every math packet in Vault)
- ✓ [Pony Bead Counting Game](#)
- ✓ [Spill the Bears Game](#)
- ✓ [Math Center](#)



Step 4: Action Plan

1. Identify how you're already supporting the development of 1:1 skills in your classroom daily.
2. Use your assessments to create small groups with similar 1:1 correspondence skills so they can practice developing this skill together. (use the assessment packet in the Vault if you need it)
3. Use more 3-D objects for counting and 1:1 practice
4. Use age-appropriate books to pique children's interests and make activities more meaningful and fun.

RESOURCES:

How Children Learn Number Concepts by Kathy Richardson

Give a Dog a Bone by Steven Kellogg

Five Little Ducks by Pam Paparone

Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh

The Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

Where is Home, Little Pip? by Karma Wilson