

Counting Cars

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to record and explain observations using objects, words, pictures, and numbers. As they learn probability and statistics, they are expected to construct graphs using real objects and to use information from a graph to answer questions.

Counting Cars Chart	
Color	Number of Cars

Materials

- ◆ Counting Cars Chart
- ◆ pencil or other writing tool
- ◆ clipboard (or other hard surface)
- ◆ timer (or watch)



What to do

Help your child set up the chart by identifying the most common colors for cars in your area. List these on the left column of the chart. (It may help younger children to write the name of each color with a marker of that color or to make a color swatch next to the name.) As you observe cars that pass by, help your child make a tally mark in the proper place to represent each car's color. Observe for a given length of time (five minutes for younger children, ten for older ones).

Discuss the results with your child. Determine the colors with the greatest and least number of cars and whether any colors had an equal number of cars. Determine the total number of cars observed.

Counting

Counting Cars *(continued)*

Extending the activity

- ✦ Encourage your child to make predictions about how the results would differ if the activity were conducted at a different time of day or in a different place. Compare these predictions with the actual results.
- ✦ Help your child write simple statements to summarize the results.
- ✦ Note other things that commonly pass by a given area and count them as well.

More questions to ask

Help your child make reasonable predictions related to this activity. Often making a “reasonable” prediction or statement is tricky for young children. As your child makes a prediction, ask, “Is that reasonable?” Accept the explanation, but after the observation time is completed ask your child to reevaluate the reasonableness of the prediction.

What your child is practicing

Your child is not only practicing necessary math skills, but also learning to patiently work through a task until it is completed.

Name _____

Date _____



Counting Cars Chart



Color	Number of Cars