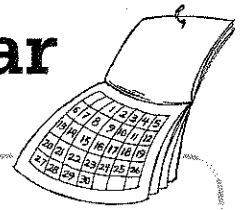


# Reading the Calendar



## Targeted skill

Young children become familiar with how the value of numbers increases as they count forward and decreases as they count backward. Phrases such as “two more days” or “that happened three days ago” help them understand this concept.

## Materials

- ◆ calendar with large spaces (A wall-sized calendar works well, but any calendar is appropriate.)
- ◆ highlighter

## What to do

As events that relate to your child are planned, write them on a calendar. Introduce the names of the days and explain how they make up a week. You might highlight the days in one calendar week, coloring the Sunday to Saturday squares with a light color. As your child gets more familiar with the idea of a week, you can explain how all the squares in one column represent the same day, such as how the second column contains all the Mondays.

## What your child is practicing

Your child is learning to count and to associate a value with the written symbol. While this is easy for adults, it is hard for children at first. Discussing events and clearly stating the name of the day helps your child understand the passage of time and how the days relate to each other.

## Extending the activity

- ✦ Encourage your child to consult the calendar to see when family events will occur. Be sure the calendar events are meaningful to your child, such as “Go to the park.” You can also draw a quick sketch of a park instead of using words.
- ✦ Encourage your child to count to determine how many days until an event will occur, so he or she will begin to understand counting and the order of numbers.

## More questions to ask

Asking the questions “how many more?” or “how many fewer?” helps your child understand the ideas of adding and subtracting. Showing your child these concepts on the calendar helps your child form a visual picture in his or her mind, making them easier to understand.