

Verbal forward count activities



1 Teacher counts — join when ready

Count slowly from zero to five several times. Students join in at any point they feel confident about what comes next.

"Listen first. Join in wherever you feel ready — when you know what is coming."

"What number do we start from? Zero — it comes before one."

2 Around the circle — 0 to 5

Students sit in a circle. Begin with "zero" and each student says the next number. When five is reached, start again from zero. Run several loops.

"Each person says one number. When we reach five — we start again at zero."

"What came just before your number?"

3 Stop and continue — start from anywhere

Count and stop part-way; students say what comes next. Then start from the middle — "three..." — and go rapid-fire: "after two? after four?"

"I will stop — what comes next? Now start from three — what comes after three?"

"Did you go back to zero first, or did you just know?"

4 Non-example: the count out of order

Say the sequence with an error — "zero, one, three, two, four, five" — or with one missing. Students listen and catch what is wrong.

"Listen carefully — did I make a mistake? What was wrong?"

"Why does the order matter? Would the count still work in the wrong order?"