

ALL ABOUT

# COUNTING

## LESSON 1

SEMI-SCRIPTED LESSON PLAN

### Anticipatory Set

Today we are going to begin preparing to learn about counting, but before we get started, I'd like to find out how much you know about **birthday parties**.

After discussing the topic of birthday parties, relate it to the importance of being able to count...

There will be many times in life when it will be important for you to know *"how many."* For example, if you ask friends to come to a birthday party, it is important to know *how many* friends you invited so you will have an idea of how much food you should get ready, and usually, the easiest way to find out how many is to count.

### Introduction

The following activity is intended to equip your learners with familiarity with Cuisenaire Rods, mainly to minimize the temptation to play with the rods when it is time for direct instruction.

Because this is to be a time of free play, allow your learners to explore the rods without any type of adult (teacher) direction.

### Activity

As I said, today we're going to get ready to learn about counting, which is a common way to find out *"how many."* We will do this mainly through the use of Cuisenaire Rods, but first I want to give you a chance to get familiar with them, so this is what we're going to do...

I'm going to give each of you set of Cuisenaire Rods and I want you to empty them onto the area in front of you. Then use them to make anything you like.

Allow the rods themselves to suggest to the children what to do. No doubt, the pupils will quickly become absorbed in their own creations, producing many different 2- or 3-dimensional constructions or patterns. You may even wish to have a camera ready to provide for a permanent record of the students' creations, but please do not interfere with the children's progress. *(The most you might want to do, if anything at all, is to suggest new possibilities for the learners' imaginations to work on.)*

Let the students know ahead of time (give them a five-minute warning, for example) that the work/play period is about to end. When that interval of time has passed, teach them the class procedure/routine for collecting and putting away the rods and similar materials.

