



## Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy  
MathStart®

### **Spunky Monkeys On Parade**

**Counting by 2's, 3's and 4's**

**Level 2, Ages 6+**

“Storybooks that make  
math fun!”

## Counting by 2s, 3s and 4s is called skip-counting and is an important step in the development of multiplication skills

The “Monkey Day” parade is a very big deal. The crowd loves to watch the Monkey Cyclists who cycle two by two (2, 4, 6, 8...). They're followed by the Monkey Tumblers, who travel in groups of three (3, 6, 9, 12...). Finally there's the Monkey Band lined up four across (4, 8, 12, 16...).

Illustrated by Lynne Cravath.

- Read the story together with your child - or class - and talk about what is going on in each picture. Encourage children to interact with the illustrations and count the monkeys aloud as you read.
- While shopping in the supermarket, help your child find objects that are packaged in 2s, 3s, or 4s, such as light bulbs, paper towels, or sticks of margarine or butter. Skip count to find the total number of items on the shelf.
- Stringing Beads: You will need beads of two different colors (for example, red and yellow), and three strings for each child. On the first string, have the children string 2 red beads, 1 yellow, 2 red, and so on. On the second string, arrange 3 red beads, 1 yellow, 3 red, and so on. On the third string, arrange 4 red beads, 1 yellow, 4 red, and so on. Compare the three strings. Which has more red beads? Skip count the red beads together.
- Grouping Objects: Pick three different kinds of small objects that you can easily get in quantity. For example, black beans, lima beans and pinto beans. Ask the children to group the black beans by 2, the lima beans by 3 and the pinto beans by 4. Have them make 10 groups of each. Now skip count. What is the relationship between the number of black beans and the number of pinto beans?

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