Counting Our Way Through the Park: 1 to 20

Written by Trish Byrnes
Illustrations by James Bravo
Acknowledgments

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The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to develop and disseminate research-proven educational programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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Counting Our Way
Through the Park:
1 to 20

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When Dad and I walked in the park, this is what we saw:
yellow sun,
shining brightly down
2 playful puppies, 
their fur a fluffy brown
3 long-tailed dragon kites, soaring in the sky
family picnickers, eating lemon pie
5 little sailboats, one behind the other
6 baby ducklings, sticking close to Mother
joyful bluebirds,
singing us a tune
laughing girls and boys, each with a balloon
9 purple irises, swaying in the breeze
10 yellow tulips —
Oh! Don’t pick them, please!
11 stormy, dark clouds, threatening overhead
12 round umbrellas, in stripes of blue and red
cool, wet raindrops, falling from the sky
14 rain-drenched chickadees, trying hard to fly
15 sparkling sunbeams, drying up the rain
16 tiny working ants, on their way again
17 dotted ladybugs,
glad the rain is over
furry bunny rabbits, eating bits of clover
19 apple blossoms, blooming on a tree
fluttering butterflies, happy to be free
What a wonderful day in the park we had! Walking and counting—just me and my dad!
Story Sharing Sheet

• Before reading the book, ask your child to tell you about the illustration on the cover. Have him point to the title as he reads “Counting Our Way Through the Park: 1 to 20.” Ask him what he remembers about the book.

• Invite your child to show you the illustrations in the book. Ask him what things the father and his child saw on their walk. Also, have him point to and identify the numbers on each page.

• As you read the book to your child, stop at the end of each page and allow him to count the objects in the illustrations.

• After reading the book, ask your child to count from 1 to 20. Invite him to write the numbers 1 through 20 on index cards or pieces of paper. Have him lay the cards out on a table or the floor and then have him place the right number of pennies, pieces of cereal, or crayons on each card; i.e., 3 crayons on the 3 card.

• Visit the library and look for other counting and math books.
This is the student version of Counting Our Way Through the Park: 1 to 20, one of a series of SFA Big Books developed by the Success for All Foundation to help young children explore theme-related ideas. These engaging books build children’s enjoyment of books, their vocabulary, and their understanding of how printed words and pictures communicate meaning.

The Success for All Foundation programs for young learners provide children with experiences that foster the abilities and attitudes necessary for their success in the primary grades. These programs support the development of children’s language, literacy, math, science, interpersonal, and self-help skills.