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ACTIVITY # 1

Count Your Chickens

Children will practice counting and recognizing numbers as they go on a chicken hunt.

LEARNING GOALS

- Count up to the number 10
- Read the numerals "1" to "10"

ITEMS NEEDED

- Paper bags
- Printable Chicken Tokens page (attached) or objects such as cotton balls to represent chickens
- A marker

GET READY



With your group, view *The Chicken Problem* video clip at pbskids.org/learn, and review the numbers one to 10.

Take out enough paper bags so that each child has one, and write a number from one to 10 on each. (On one bag, write the numeral "1"; on the next bag write the numeral "2"; and so on.) If you have more than 10 children, you can use more than 10 bags and repeat numbers, or have the children work in teams. If you have fewer, you can give each child several bags.

Now, prepare your chickens. Children may use safety scissors to cut out and then color the chicken tokens, or you can use a common object, such as a cotton ball, to represent the chickens. Then, hide the chickens throughout the space, making sure there are enough chickens for each child to collect. For example, if you use 10 bags, each labeled with a different numeral from "1" to "10," you will need 55 chickens. Make sure the children don't see where you hide the chickens!

All video clips, games, and activities in this resource can be found at pbskids.org/learn



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ACTIVITY # 1

Count Your Chickens

(continued)

HAVE FUN!

1. Explain that you are "Farmer [insert your name]" and that you have a big problem! You've lost your chickens and you need the children to help you find them.
2. Give each child a paper bag. Explain that the number on each child's bag indicates how many chickens that child needs to find.
3. Go around the room and have the children identify the numbers on each bag.
4. Get hunting! Have children look around the room for their assigned number of chickens. As they search, remind children that the goal is to find only the number of chickens written on their bag.
5. Gather together and count out the chickens in each bag.
6. If a child collected more or less than his assigned number, take the opportunity to discuss addition and subtraction, more and less. You might say, "[Sam] collected [12] chickens. Is [12] more than [10] or less? How many chickens will we need to take away/subtract so that there are [10]?"
7. Play again! Give each child a bag with a different number.

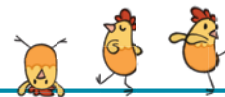
PROBLEM SOLVED!

When all of the chickens have been counted, sing the "**Problem Solved**" song!

♪ *Problem solved! The problem is solved!*
We solved the problem! Problem solved!



MORE FUN IDEAS



- As you count out the chickens, have the children help you line up the bags in order from one to 10.
- Play some music and have children move around like chickens. Pause the music and hold up a number bag. Ask children to "peep" that number of times.

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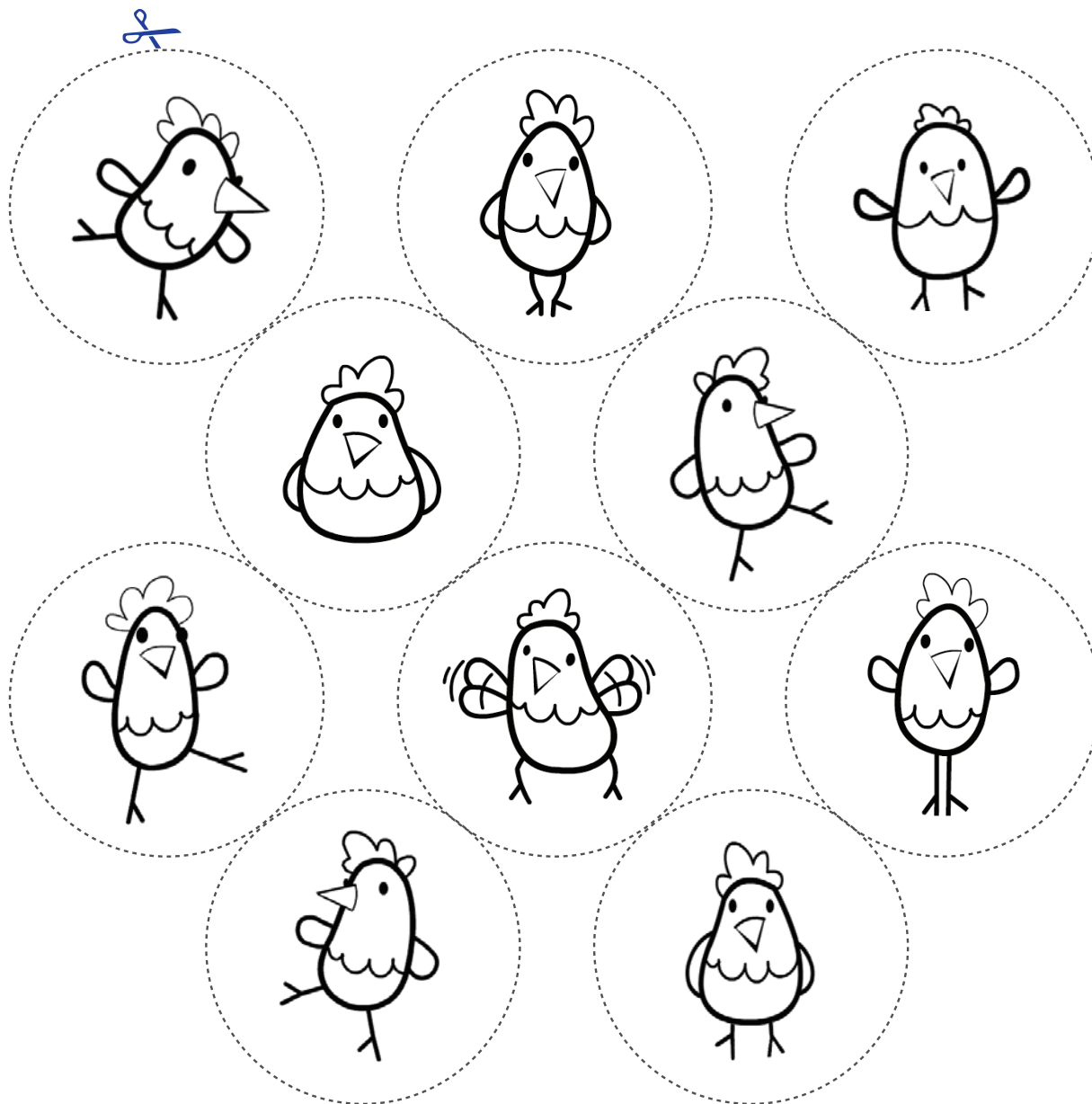
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ACTIVITY # 1

“Count Your Chickens” Printable Tokens

Handout



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