

H. Porter/T. Scott  
Math/Cognitive

### Outdoor Observational Math Activity

**Materials:**

Paper (writing/drawing/scratch paper)  
Writing Utensil  
(Pen/crayon/marker/pencil)

**Learning Objective:**

To understand that one tally mark represents one number when counting.

**What to do:**

Introduce and explain the activity:

"Today we are going to make a list of things that we may see and hear outside. Then we are going to go for a walk and we are going to use tally marks to record the number of times we see and hear these things."

- Show an example of a tally mark, then make your list together, using columns for each item. (e.g. cat, dog, birds, trees, people, yellow car, green car, etc.)
- Take a walk in your neighborhood and record things on your list that you hear and see.
- Tally your findings when you return home and compare the numbers.

**Extension:**

Make a list of things to count inside the home but instead of using tally marks, use common household items that resemble tally marks such as forks, spoons, pencils or pens

**Questions to ask your child:**

- What other things did you see or hear in the neighborhood?
- What other things would you like to see and hear in our neighborhood?
- What did we see or hear the most?
- How can you use tally marks when you are playing with your toys?

**Why is this activity important?**

This activity is important to show a method of counting and representation to collect data.