Let’s Count will benefit your centre by:

- Enhancing your educational program through the introduction of mathematics learning opportunities for children in your centre.
- Providing a Professional Development opportunity for your educators using current early childhood theory and practice.
- Giving an opportunity for educators to build collaborative partnerships with families.
- Making numeracy fun and engaging for all families.
- Building responsive, respectful relationships with children using a flexible learning model, which will fit the child’s strengths, capabilities and background.
- Supporting educators to implement the EYLF at your centre.

About The Smith Family

The Smith Family is a national children’s charity that helps disadvantaged young Australians to succeed at school, so they can create better futures for themselves. The Smith Family believes that every child deserves a chance and that circumstances should never limit the achievement of potential. With research showing that education has the power to transform lives, not just minds, the national charity’s Learning for Life program enables disadvantaged children and young people to get the opportunities they need to fully participate in their education.

thesmithfamily.com.au

Let’s Count is a Smith Family numeracy program developed in partnership with Blackrock Investment Management and with the financial support of the Origin Foundation.

This Let’s Count project is supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the National Innovation and Science Agenda.
How does Let’s Count work?

Let’s Count includes a program of professional learning for early childhood educators, involving two full day workshops, undertaken approximately two months apart. The time between the modules allows for centre-based learning and activities. Educators suggest activities to parents that provide opportunities for them to engage their children in mathematical learning. Interactions between educators, parents and children occur over the year following the professional learning.

Parents receive a take-home resource pack including ideas, tips, games and books to use with their children. The resources, coupled with the advice provided by educators, aim to increase parents’ confidence and ability to guide and support their child’s mathematical development, particularly in the home environment.

What does the research say?

A three year evaluation of Let’s Count shows it impacts positively on children, parents and educators who participate. All three groups developed enhanced confidence and stronger interest regarding mathematics and more positive dispositions towards it.

Importantly, there is strong evidence that the children’s mathematics skills have grown significantly through their involvement. The skills of children who participated in Let’s Count are greater than those of their peers who did not participate in the program.

Through facilitating strong partnerships between families and educators, Let’s Count supported children from disadvantaged communities to develop appropriate mathematics knowledge, skills and dispositions at a critical point in their lives – as they prepare to start school.

What is Let’s Count?

Let’s Count is an innovative, evidence-based program designed to improve the mathematics skills and attitudes of children 3-5 years old.

Let’s Count is an early mathematics program, designed by The Smith Family, Professor Bob Perry and Associate Professor Ann Gervasoni. It was developed in recognition of the importance of early mathematics for children’s long-term wellbeing. In particular, it aims to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop maths skills, knowledge and positive dispositions, as they prepare to start school.

The program assists educators in early childhood contexts, to work in partnership with parents and other family members, to promote positive mathematical experiences for young children, aged three to five. It fosters opportunities for children to engage with the mathematics they encounter as part of their everyday lives, and in turn, talk about, document and explore it, in ways that are fun and relevant to them.

What do I have to do?

You will need to commit to implementing Let’s Count in your centre. This will include:

- Releasing staff at your Centre to attend the free Let’s Count training sessions delivered at a locally based training venue. These days will be 6-8 weeks apart to allow for educators to apply the skills they have learnt in Day 1. Day 2 of the training is an opportunity for educators to reflect and build on the practice of these skills.
- Supporting your staff to conduct Let’s Count parent sessions in your centre.
- Promoting ongoing engagement with parents around numeracy learning opportunities.

What will be provided?

- Free Let’s Count training sessions that will support educators to implement the EYLF at your centre.

“I think it’s fabulous, exactly how kids should learn most things, particularly when it can start at home from such a young age and not just at school in a formal setting… it is a holistic approach rather than just ‘Let’s count to 10’.”

Parent of Let’s Count participant