

# ABRACADABRA MANCALA

## Strategies to Help Children Count Words

The following activities are various ways to get learners to count the words in a sentence. Start by explaining to learners that sentences are made up of individual words. It is important to know where words begin and end because this will help us when we read and write.

### OBJECTIVE

The learner will demonstrate decoding skills in multiple capacities.

### TIME

20 minutes.


### MATERIALS

Computer, Mancala game board & pieces.

#### WARM UP: CLAP ALONG

- Say "I like pizza" while clapping each word.
- Ask learners how many times you clapped. When they confirm it was 3, reinforce that there are 3 words in that sentence.
- Repeat activity using other sentences. For example:
  - I have four aunts.
  - My cat's name is Molly.
  - My car is silver.
  - Reading is fun.
  - My best friend is Cindy.
- Ask learners to generate their own sentences and clap along.

#### ABRA: WORD COUNTING

- Sign in to ABRACADABRA.
- Choose the category *Sounds, Letters, and Words*.
- Choose *Word Counting* from the activity list. 
- Select a story from the available list.
- Click on *Go*.
- Click on *Play*.
- Watch and assist as the child does this activity for 8 minutes.

#### TANGIBLE: MANCALA

- Bring out a Mancala board and its pieces.
- Read some shorter sentences from an ABRA book. For example, from Henny Penny:
  - The sky is falling.
  - May I go with you?
  - Goosey-Poosey was the first to go in.
- Have the child put Mancala pieces into the individual trays to represent each word.
- Continue for 5 minutes.

*Note: You can use an egg carton and marbles/beads if you don't have a Mancala board.*