



# Estimate

Practice estimation by making careful guesses.

## Egg Carton Estimation

Use a clean, empty egg carton to practice estimating. Cut two sections off one end of the carton, leaving 10 sections. You will also need a group of 10 small items—such as pennies or dried beans. Put several of the items in your hand. Show them to your child but don't count them yet. Instead, have them guess how many items are in your hand. Then count the items as you place each one in a section of the carton. How close was the guess?

## Guess and Count

Before you clean up a room, have your child guess how many toys need to be put away. Then count the toys as they are picked up. How close was the guess? For a challenge, make a guess and then count backward beginning with the guessed number as you pick up the toys. Was one the last number? If so, the estimate was exactly right!

## Estimate

Estimate how many legs are in your house. This includes legs on tables, chairs, and people. Count to check the estimate.



You can find these Waterford.org books and practice pages—and many more—in the **Resources & Activities** tab at [mentor.waterford.org](https://mentor.waterford.org).

## Read

Take a trip to the library or find books online. Look for books about estimation that you and your child can read together. Here are some books to consider:

- *Betcha!* by Stuart J. Murphy
- *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* by Margaret McNamara

## Waterford Books

You can find this book about estimation in the **Resources & Activities** tab at [mentor.waterford.org](https://mentor.waterford.org).

- *The Watermelon Seed* by Laura Hinton Smith

After reading, do the following activity. Choose a piece of fruit for a snack. How many seeds do you think you will find inside? Make an estimate and then count the seeds. Was your estimate close? Enjoy eating the fruit!

