

Magic beans:

This game helps us to learn that anything can be counted, like claps, steps, skips, jumps, spins and the sound of objects dropping.



You will need a hard bowl or box to drop the objects in to so each sound can be heard really clearly! Find something magic – maybe you have beans like Jack or special shells, gems or buttons.

- ◆ Get someone that is very good at counting to start dropping the magic beans one at a time into the bowl.
- ◆ Use your super looking and listening power to watch carefully as you count each bean making a noise when it hits the bowl.
- ◆ It's really important that you only count the sounds you hear. Make sure you count aloud as this is a challenging skill to learn.
- ◆ Once the sound stops get the person dropping the beans to ask the questions
“how many sounds did you hear?”
- ◆ Now you need to say the number you heard.
- ◆ To check your counting, put all the beans from the bowl into a line and count them to see if your number matches how many there are. Make sure you touch each bean once when you are counting, this helps to not overcount.
- ◆ Keep repeating with different numbers of beans.

If this is a bit too tricky, keep to smaller numbers such as 1-4 and model counting the sounds clearly, so your child can hear.

To extend the game, you could try dropping the beans faster or slower or get the person counting to close their eyes and count aloud. You could try with two sets of objects that make different sounds or count movements like claps or jumps.