Anno’s Counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno

age level: 2 - 4

about the story
This picture book beautifully illustrates a small town throughout the changing seasons. Each 2-page spread depicts a number of everyday objects, from 1 to 12, for the child to find. The illustrations can be used not only to teach counting but also to help the child learn addition and subtraction. The last page offers useful material for adults.

about the math
While counting the objects in each scene, your child can learn:

- How to say the counting words from 1 to 12.
- How to count objects one at a time. This is not so easy because the objects are embedded in the illustration and the child must look carefully to find them.
- The blocks on the left and the written number on the right always indicate the number of objects to be found.
- The objects can be seen as separate groups and then added to get the total.

words to learn
Although there are no words in the story, your children can learn how to read the number symbols: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

tips and questions for reading
Try finding the right number of objects on each page: I see the number five. Can you find five cabooses on the train?

Try finding the wrong number of objects. For example, in the case of 5 there is only one train engine: Can you find one of something in the picture?

Practice adding. In the case of 5: How many children are here? How many are here? How many altogether? How many children will there be on the next page?

Talk about the changes as the seasons progress throughout the book: What differences do you see? What are the people doing? What are they wearing?

activity after reading
Children can illustrate their own counting book with scenes from their daily life. After illustrating, count the objects on the page and represent the number of objects with squares or numerals.