

MR. MIX-UP

Introduce the children to Mr. Mix-up, a puppet who makes lots of counting mistakes. “Watch Mr. Mix-up very carefully as he counts these blocks. If you catch a mistake, raise your hand right away, so we can help Mr. Mix-up count these blocks correctly.” Have Mr. Mix-up make the following mistakes: (a) skip an object, (b) count the first or last object twice or another object more than once, (c) make errors in the number name sequence, or (d) report the cardinal value of the set as a number different than the last one spoken. When the children catch a mistake, ask, “What happened?” and “Can you explain to Mr. Mix-up why it’s a mistake and tell him how he can be more careful next time he counts?”

[Source: Research Ideas for the Classroom: Early Childhood Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, p. 47]

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