March of the Stuffed Animals

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Here's your March of the Stuffed Animals activity guide! It explains how to help your children have fun counting and thinking about numbers with their favorite stuffed animal toys at home!

Thanks for adding some number fun to your day!

Crazy Creature Census

In Crazy Creature Census, your child will practice some **simple math skills**: counting, comparing sizes, and putting items into groups – all with the help of their favorite stuffed animals! To start off, have your child gather as many stuffed animals they can find around the house.

Part 1: Counting

"Look at all these wonderful furry friends! Let's see how many we have. We can count together!" Lead your child in counting up **all the stuffed animals** they found.
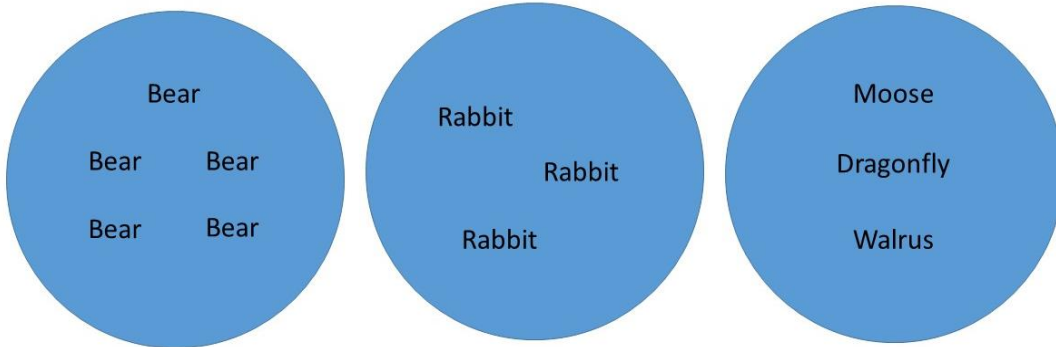
"These stuffed animals have lots of legs!"

- "How many legs does your animal have?"
- "Who has more legs, you or your animal?"
- "How many *more* legs does a 4-legged animal have than a 2-legged one?"

Part 2: Grouping

"We found lots of **different** kinds of animals. And they're lots of different colors, too! Let's see what kind of animal we have the **most** of."

- Look at the pile of stuffed animals together and see **what types** of animals there are – for example, you might have a lot of bears, a few rabbits, a walrus, a moose, and a dragonfly.

- Ask your child to place the **same type** of animal into separate piles. One-of-a-kind animals can be piled together in one group.

Bear	Rabbit	Moose
Bear Bear	Rabbit	Dragonfly
Bear Bear	Rabbit	Walrus

- Once all the stuffed animals are in separate piles, **help them count** how many animals are in each group. Which group has the **most animals**? Which has the **fewest**?
- If time and interest allow, make **new groups based on color**, and count again!

Stuffed Animal Parade

"Now it's time for our Stuffed Animal Parade! We'll put on some **marching music** and **count** as we march."

Lining up:

Have your child line up the stuffed animals based on size (smallest to largest). If you have other children, family members, or pets around feel free to get them involved in the march by holding a stuffed animal! Ask your child, "Who is the smallest animal? Why don't you let that animal go first so they can see what's going on! Which one is the next smallest animal? That one goes next!" And so on, until all the animals are in line.

Marching:

"Now it's time for our parade! Let's count as we march!" Put on some marching music and demonstrate marching while counting (**one, two, one, two...**). Lead your child and any others who have joined in a parade! To get all the stuffed animals to "march" place the animals on a wagon or old blanket and pull them along for a ride!

![Bedtime Math logo] # More Math Fun!

"Now that we're officially Bedtime Math Marchers, let's read a Bedtime Math problem, and solve a **fun math riddle** together!"

Note to parent or guardian: *Feel free to fit this into your day at the time that works best for you – right after marching, at snacktime, or even during dinner or bathtime. The Wee Ones questions are perfect for Pre-K! Just read the story out loud, and then talk together to solve the problem. If you enjoy it, try out many more stories on our free app!*

Larger Than Life:

Photo: Laura Overdeck

Do you like stuffed animals? What kinds do you have — maybe a teddy bear, or furry dog, or a cute bunny? Toy stuffed animals are fun because they can be any color we want: orange birds, blue turtles, whatever. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if your stuffed animals all suddenly became those animals for real? How much bigger would they be, and would they all fit in your room?

Wee ones: Who has more legs, your 4-legged purple bunny rabbit or your 8-legged pink octopus?

Little kids: If you and your stuffed animal ladybug go for a walk, how many legs do you have together? **Bonus:** Your toy giraffe might be your tallest stuffed animal at 2 feet, but real ones are about 18 feet tall! How many feet would your toy giraffe have to grow to match the real one?

Big kids: A real bunny rabbit can weigh around 4 pounds. If your stuffed animal bunny weighs just 1/2 pound, how much heavier would a real one be? **Bonus:** If your pile of stuffed animals weighs 3 pounds total, and the real versions all together would weigh 60 times as much, how many pounds would the real animals weigh all together?

Answers:
Wee ones: The 8-legged octopus.
Little kids: 8 legs (since you have 2 + 6). *Bonus:* 16 more feet.
Big kids: 3 1/2 pounds heavier. *Bonus:* 180 pounds.

Want another math riddle? Keep the fun going with more Bedtime Math!