The Elf on the Shelf®
TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER
Kindergarten

Using The Elf on the Shelf® to count down (Math).

CC standard: Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1–20, count out that many objects. Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).

Materials:
- The Elf on the Shelf® Advent template (one per student) (page 2)
- Pocket paper template (copies on red paper) (page 3)
- The Elf on the Shelf® stick topper template (one per student) (page 4)
- Toothpick (one per student)

- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape

Lesson:
Tell the students that they are going to be able to tell you how many days are left until Christmas, because they are going to make The Elf on the Shelf® countdown calendar (If your school does not allow you to celebrate Christmas you can count down the days until school gets out for winter break. If you choose to count down to Christmas, students can take their Advent calendars home with them to continue counting down).

Begin by writing the numbers 0-20 on the board. As you write, say the number aloud and ask the students to repeat after you. Then, pass out the The Elf on the Shelf® Advent template and the pocket paper template. Students should cut out the numbered pockets using the dotted lines. Once they are cut, the numbers will most likely be out of order. So, after everyone is finished cutting their paper pockets, you should point to each number on the board again. Say the number. Students should count along with you and put their numbered strips of paper back in numerical order from 0-20.

Once their pockets have been placed in numerical order, the students should begin to glue them onto their advent template. Explain to the children that since they are counting down the days until Christmas (or winter break), they must start with the highest number at the top of the page. For ease, you can instruct students to begin gluing in the bottom right hand corner of the paper with "0." Explain that zero is Christmas Day, so there is no more counting to do.

Set the pockets aside and allow them to dry. Then allow students to color and then cut out The Elf on the Shelf® stick topper. Be sure the suit is red like the one on your scout elf. Then tape the tiny topper to the top of one of the toothpicks. Once the Advent calendar pockets are dry, your students can each begin their countdown by placing the toothpick with the topper in the corresponding days left until Christmas. You can use string to hang these in the classroom.

Activity/Follow up:
As a class, each day you can impress the scout elf with your ability to tell him/her how many days you have left. Count with the students and subtract a day. Allow them to move their stick toppers to the corresponding pocket. When your students leave on break, they can take the countdown calendar with them to continue the countdown.
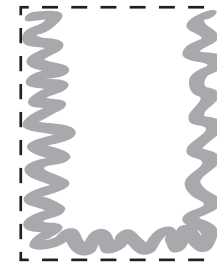
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The Elf on the Shelf® Advent

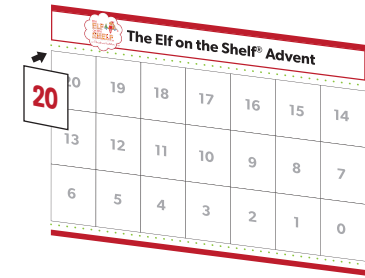| 20	19	18	17	16	15	14
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Pocket Paper Template

Cut out the numbers along the dotted line. Then, glue the left, right, and bottom sides taking care to NOT get glue on the center of the paper. Place each pocket on top of its corresponding number on The Elf on the Shelf® Advent on page 2. Continue until all numbers have been placed. Be sure the students DO NOT get glue on the top.

Glue along left, bottom, and right sides.

The Elf on the Shelf® Advent

20	19	18	17	16	15	14
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3	2	1	0

The Elf on the Shelf® Stick Topper

Print out as many pages needed to give each student one scout elf. Then, cut out the scout elves along the dotted lines. Let the students color their stick toppers, making sure to color the suit red like the one on your scout elf! Then let them tape the tiny topper to the top of a toothpick.

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