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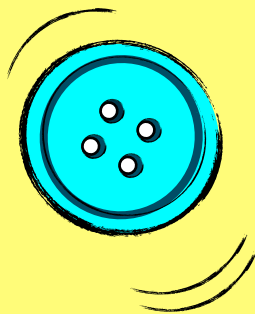
Pete the Cat is wearing his favorite shirt, the one with the four groovy buttons. One by one the buttons pop off! But losing the buttons doesn't bother Pete, he just keeps singing his song and subtracting to tell how many buttons are left.

**Ages:** 3 to 6 years

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**Copyright:** 2012

**Related Books:** *10, 9, 8...* by Molly Bang; *Ten Minutes Till Bedtime* by Peggy Rathmann, *Eight Silly Monkeys* by Steve Haskamp



# Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons

*Pete keeps losing his buttons one by one, but does Pete get upset? No way!*

**Math Connections:**

Subtraction

Counting

**Activities to Do Together:**

- As Pete loses each button, ask your child to count how many are left.
- Practice reading the equations with your child.
- Talk about the equal sign as being the balance point in the equation; what is on one side of the equal sign has the same value as what is on the other side of the equal sign.
- Practice a “count down”! 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, ...

**Extension Questions:**

1. What would you do if the buttons on your shirt started popping off?
2. How is subtracting one like a count down?
3. In what other situation would you count backwards or subtract one at a time?
4. Use big buttons to follow along with the story, taking one away as Pete loses each button. Ask How many are left now?

**Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts:**

four, one, three, two

**Early Math Project Resources:**

[Pete the Cat Board Game](#) (English)

[Pete the Cat Board Game](#) (Spanish)

[Pete the Cat Game Instructions](#) (English)

[Pete the Cat Game Instructions](#) (Spanish)

**Online Resources:**

A [follow-along activity](#) from NZMaths

A [Pete the Cat](#) lesson from Math at Home including a link to sing along video.

