7. Learning about After

- Display the counting board.
- Scatter the blocks on the table.
- Call on a child.
- Say, "Point to 4. Can you put back the block that comes after 4?"
- Ask, "What is its name?"
- A child answers, "5."

*Note:* When a child is stuck, point to the empty groove to show where the position "after 4" is. Once the children understand the meaning of after, play the game without pointing to a groove.

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8. Learning about Before

*Note:* For some children the concept of before is very difficult. In this experiment the meaning is put into the context of time: "What went before this?"

- Display the filled counting board.
- Place a 10-box near the beginning (left side) of the board.
- Announce, "The blocks are going into this box. Watch! First the 1-block goes into the box."
- Place the 1-block in the box as the first step of a stair.
- Say, "Now 2 goes into the box."
- Ask, "Which block went before 2?"
- A child answers, "One."
- Ask, "What am I going to do next?"
- A child says, "Take the 3-block" (teacher does so).
- Encourage the children to tell you what to do. You just move the blocks.
- Each time ask, "What went before . . . ?"
- Soon the blocks are in the 10-box in the form of a stair from 1 to 10.
9. Learning about Between

Note: Some children have difficulty understanding where the position between is. It may be easier for them to understand when you ask them, "What is between your hands?" Try it.

Teaching the Relationship
* Guide a child by saying, "Put this hand on 4. Put this hand on 6."
* Ask, "What comes between 4 and 6?" (or "What comes between your hands?").
* The child looks at what is between his or her hands, sees the 5-block and names it.

Practicing the Relationship (not illustrated)
* Give both points of reference by saying, "Put back 4. Put back 6."
* Then say, "Put back the block that lives between 4 and 6."
* Ask the child to name it. (Five.)
* Continue with other sets of blocks.

10. Checking Up: The Sticker Game

* Buy small stickers for the children to win.
* Display the filled counting board.
* Say, "Close your eyes."
* Hide a sticker underneath the 4-block.
* Have the children open their eyes.
* Say, "The sticker is under the block before 5."
* Ask, "Which block comes before 5?"
* The child locates 5, finds the 4-block is before 5, looks underneath it, and finds the sticker.

Checking up: You may vary the vocabulary; use before, after, one bigger than, one smaller than, and between.