

6-Week Small Group Intervention Plan

Counting Backward Within 20 | Kindergarten

Created: February 4, 2026

Group Profile

- **Grade Level:** Kindergarten
- **Number of Students:** 4
- **Focus Area:** Counting backward within 20
- **Session Length:** 30 minutes
- **Frequency:** 2 times per week
- **Duration:** 6 weeks (12 total sessions)
- **Accessibility Note:** One student uses a communication device (AAC accommodations included throughout)

Benchmark-Based Learning Goals

Based on the [ALN Kindergarten HLC Progressions](#), this intervention targets:

Primary Benchmark:

- **Count backward within the range 1-20, starting at any number**
 - Students will develop stable backward counting sequences
 - Students will understand that counting backward means "one less" each time
 - Students will connect backward counting to the number sequence structure

Prerequisite Benchmarks:

- Count backward from 10
- Count backward from 5
- Count forward within 1-20 starting at any number

Week	Focus	Learning Goal
Week 1	Foundation: Counting Backward from 10	Students count backward from 10 with accuracy and fluency
Week 2	Extending: Counting Backward 11-15	Students count backward from numbers 11-15
Week 3	Building Fluency: Counting Backward 16-20	Students count backward from numbers 16-20
Week 4	Starting at Any Number (1-15)	Students count backward starting at any number within 15
Week 5	Starting at Any Number (1-20)	Students count backward starting at any number within 20
Week 6	Application & Assessment	Students demonstrate mastery across various contexts



Daily Session Structure (30 Minutes)

Component	Time	Purpose
Launch	5 minutes	Activate counting skills, build fluency
Main Activity	15-20 minutes	Concept development through games/tasks
Closure	5-10 minutes	Quick check, reflection, practice



Week-by-Week Intervention Plan

WEEK 1: Foundation - Counting Backward from 10

SESSION 1: Introduction to Counting Backward

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch - Counting By 1s

- Focus on counting backward from 10
- Model thinking: "When we count backward, we say one less number each time"
- **AAC Support:** Pre-program "10, 9, 8, 7..." on device; use visual number line for all students

Main Activity (20 min):

Grab Bag Counting

- Modified version: Students grab a handful (limit to 10 or fewer items), count forward, then practice counting backward from that total
- Teacher models: "I have 7. Watch me count backward: 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1"
- **AAC Support:** Pair AAC user with peer buddy to organize materials while counting using device; provide extended wait time

Closure (5 min):

- Choral counting backward from 10 as a group
- **AAC Support:** Student can activate device simultaneously with group counting

SESSION 2: Building Fluency from 10

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch - Counting By 1s

- Students practice counting backward from different starting points within 10
- **AAC Support:** Visual number cards for all students; AAC user points to numbers while device verbalizes

Main Activity (20 min):

Number After Bingo

- MODIFIED

- Adaptation: Create "Number Before Bingo" – Students identify the number that comes *before* a given number (counting backward by 1)
- **AAC Support:** AAC user can point to correct number on bingo board; provide visual choices

Closure (5 min):

- Quick practice - Teacher says a number (within 10), students say the number before
- **AAC Support:** Extended response time; allow pointing to visual number line

WEEK 2: Extending - Counting Backward 11-15

SESSION 3: Introduction to Teen Numbers Backward

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch - Counting By 1s

- Focus: Counting backward from 15
- **AAC Support:** Update device with 15-1 sequence; use visual countdown strip

Main Activity (20 min):

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #20

- Complete sections that focus on counting and number sequences
- Add backward counting practice with missing numbers
- **AAC Support:** Provide manipulatives for hands-on practice; allow pointing/writing responses

Closure (5 min):

- Partner counting - One student counts forward to 15, partner counts backward from 15
- **AAC Support:** AAC user paired with supportive peer; both use visual number line

SESSION 4: Practicing Teen Numbers

Launch (5 min):

Visual Images Launch - Number Lines

- Use number lines to visualize counting backward (moving left on the line)
- **AAC Support:** IDEAL visual support for all learners; AAC user observes before responding

Main Activity (20 min):

Counting Handfuls #01

- Students count their handful forward, then practice counting backward from that number
- Focus on numbers 11-15
- **AAC Support:** Partner helps organize handful while AAC user counts; extended time for device access

Closure (5 min):

- Exit ticket - Count backward from 14
- **AAC Support:** Multiple choice format or point-to-answer cards

WEEK 3: Building Fluency - Counting Backward 16-20

SESSION 5: Introduction to Higher Teen Numbers

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch - Counting By 1s

- Focus: Counting backward from 20
- **AAC Support:** Pre-program full 20-1 sequence; visual countdown strip available

Main Activity (20 min):

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #22

- Focus on missing number sequences counting backward
- Practice with numbers 16-20
- **AAC Support:** Use manipulatives; allow multiple response methods

Closure (5 min):

- Group challenge - Count backward from 20 together, then in pairs
- **AAC Support:** AAC user joins choral counting with device

SESSION 6: Fluency Practice

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch

- Mixed practice: backward from 10, 15, 20
- **AAC Support:** Visual cues for each starting number

Main Activity (20 min):

Counting Handfuls #02

- Students organize and count collections within 20, then practice counting backward
- **AAC Support:** Peer buddy supports organization; AAC user controls counting pace

Closure (5 min):

- Quick check - Individual students count backward from teacher-chosen numbers (16-20)
- **AAC Support:** Additional wait time; visual number line support

WEEK 4: Starting at Any Number (1-15)

SESSION 7: Flexible Starting Points

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch

- Practice starting at different numbers: 8, 12, 15
- **AAC Support:** Visual cards showing starting numbers

Main Activity (20 min):

Number Choice Game (using **Grab Bag Counting** principles)

- Students pick a card with a number (1-15), count backward from that number
- **AAC Support:** Pre-program device with multiple starting sequences; cards with large, clear numbers

Closure (5 min):

- Sharing - Students demonstrate counting backward from their chosen number
- **AAC Support:** Include celebration phrases on device: "I did it!" "That's correct!"

SESSION 8: Building Confidence

Launch (5 min):

Visual Images Launch - Number Lines

- Show backward movement on number line
- **AAC Support:** Visual support benefits all learners

Main Activity (20 min):

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #24

- Complete backward counting sequences
- Fill in missing numbers counting backward
- **AAC Support:** Provide number tiles for hands-on manipulation

Closure (5 min):

- Exit ticket - Count backward from a random number within 15
- **AAC Support:** Point-to-answer format available

WEEK 5: Starting at Any Number (1-20)

SESSION 9: Full Range Practice

Launch (5 min):

Rote Counting Launch

- Mixed practice across the full 1-20 range
- **AAC Support:** Full 1-20 number line visible at all times

Main Activity (20 min):

"Mystery Number" Game

- Teacher gives clues: "Start at 17, count backward 3 numbers. Where are you?"
- Students practice flexible backward counting
- **AAC Support:** Visual manipulatives for counting backward; peer partner to help track

Closure (5 min):

- Partner challenge - Partners quiz each other on backward counting from any number
- **AAC Support:** AAC user's partner asks questions; AAC user responds with device or pointing

SESSION 10: Applying Skills

Launch (5 min):

Student-led counting

- Volunteers lead the group in counting backward from their chosen number
- **AAC Support:** AAC user can lead by activating device sequence; all students follow along

Main Activity (20 min):

Create-Your-Own Counting Practice (using

Journal Prompt Kindergarten #21

format)

- Draw a collection, count it, then practice counting backward from that total
- **AAC Support:** AAC user draws/stamps collection; uses device to count while pointing to pictures

Closure (5 min):

- Share and count - Students share their drawings and count backward
- **AAC Support:** AAC user shares using device; peers celebrate

WEEK 6: Application & Assessment

SESSION 11: Real-World Application

Launch (5 min):

Countdown scenarios

- "We have 18 cubes. Let's count backward as we put them away one at a time."
- **AAC Support:** AAC user activates device while group removes objects; concrete connection to counting

Main Activity (20 min):

Counting Challenges

- Mixed activities using previous resources
- Backward counting in multiple contexts (objects, number lines, sequences)
- **AAC Support:** Rotate through visual, auditory, and hands-on stations

Closure (5 min):

- Reflection - "What helps you remember to count backward?"
- **AAC Support:** Pre-program reflection responses: "Number line helps," "Counting objects," "Working with partner"

SESSION 12: Final Assessment

Launch (5 min):

Celebration warm-up

- Group counts backward from 20
- **AAC Support:** All students join in unified celebration

Main Activity (20 min):

Individual Assessment - Each student demonstrates counting backward from:

- 10
- 15
- 20
- A random number within 20 (teacher's choice)

AAC Support: Multiple response options (device, pointing to number line, manipulatives); no time limits

Closure (5 min):

- Celebration! Share growth and favorite counting strategies
- **AAC Support:** Pre-program celebration phrases; all students share



AAC Accommodations Summary

Key Modifications for Student Using Communication Device

1. Visual Supports

- Use number cards and visual number lines for ALL counting activities
- Pre-program counting sequences into the communication device before each session
- Create visual countdown strips (numbers in sequence that student can point to)

2. Response Methods

- Allow student to respond using device, pointing to numbers, or using gesture
- Provide "thinking time" before requiring responses
- Use choral responses where everyone counts together (student can activate device simultaneously)

3. Partner Structures

- Pair AAC user with a peer buddy during games and activities
- Buddy can help organize materials while AAC user counts using device
- Rotate partners to build relationships with all group members

4. Activity Adaptations

- For exit tickets: Use multiple choice format or "point to the answer" cards
- During games: Provide extended wait time for device access
- Visual Images Launches are IDEAL because they require observation before verbal response

5. Pre-Teaching Vocabulary

- Before each session, review counting words (numbers 1-20) on the device
- Add phrases like "count backward," "one less," "start at," "stop at"
- Include celebration phrases: "I did it!" "That's correct!" "Let me try again"



Progress Monitoring

Method 1: Observational Checklist (Weekly)

Track student progress during each session:

Student Name	Counts BWD from 10	Counts BWD from 15	Counts BWD from 20	Counts BWD from any # (1-20)
Student 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student 4 (AAC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check Progress: Weekly (end of each week)

Mastery Criteria: Student can count backward independently without errors on 3 consecutive attempts.

AAC Note: Student may use device, pointing, or combination of methods to demonstrate mastery.

Method 2: Exit Tickets (2-3 Times Per Week)

Quick Check Questions:

- Week 1: "Count backward from 10"
- Week 2: "Count backward from 14"
- Week 3: "Count backward from 19"
- Week 4-5: "Count backward from [random number within 20]"
- Week 6: Full assessment (see Session 12)

Mastery Criteria: Student counts backward accurately (no more than 1 error) across 3 consecutive exit tickets.

AAC Accommodation: Provide multiple-choice format, visual number line, or pointing options for responses.

Materials List

Downloadable Resources:

[ALN Kindergarten HLC Progressions](#)

[Rote Counting Launch - Counting By 1s](#)

[Grab Bag Counting Game](#)

[Number After Bingo Task](#)

[Counting Handfuls #01](#)

Counting Handfuls #02

Visual Images Launch - Number Lines

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #20

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #22

Kindergarten Windowpane Set 4 #24

Journal Prompt Kindergarten #21

Concrete Materials:

- Number cards (1-20) - Large, clear print
- Counting objects (cubes, counters, etc.)
- Number line (0-20) - Laminated for durability
- Visual countdown strips (for AAC user)
- Ten frames
- Whiteboard & markers
- Index cards for exit tickets
- Manipulatives for hands-on counting



Differentiation Notes

For Students Who Need More Support:

- Start with smaller ranges (backward from 5, then 10)
- Use visual supports: number lines, hundred charts
- Practice with physical objects (removing one at a time while counting backward)
- Pair with a peer mentor
- Use AAC accommodations as needed for ALL students (visual supports benefit everyone!)

For Students Who Are Ready for Extension:

- Count backward by 2s or 5s
- Count backward from numbers beyond 20 (within 25 or 30)
- Create "what comes before" puzzles for classmates

- Practice counting backward starting at any number quickly (fluency focus)
- Connect backward counting to subtraction concepts



Next Steps After Intervention

Students Are Ready to Advance When They Can:

- Count backward from any number within 20 independently
- Identify the number that comes before a given number (within 20)
- Use backward counting in problem-solving contexts
- Demonstrate fluency with minimal hesitation

Note: AAC user may demonstrate mastery using device, pointing, or combination of methods.

Follow-Up Concepts:

1. Skip counting backward (by 2s, 5s, 10s)
2. Counting backward from larger numbers (within 50, 100)
3. Using backward counting in subtraction contexts

Home Practice Resources:

- Send home number cards for practice
- Encourage families to practice countdown routines (bedtime countdown from 20, etc.)
- Share simple backward counting games (counting down stairs, counting items being put away)
- For AAC user: Share strategies with family for device practice at home

All Learners Network

Intervention Plan Created: February 4, 2026
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Printed: February 4, 2026