

The Zero Concept — Activity Sheet

Understanding that zero means 'nothing / none'

A little story about zero

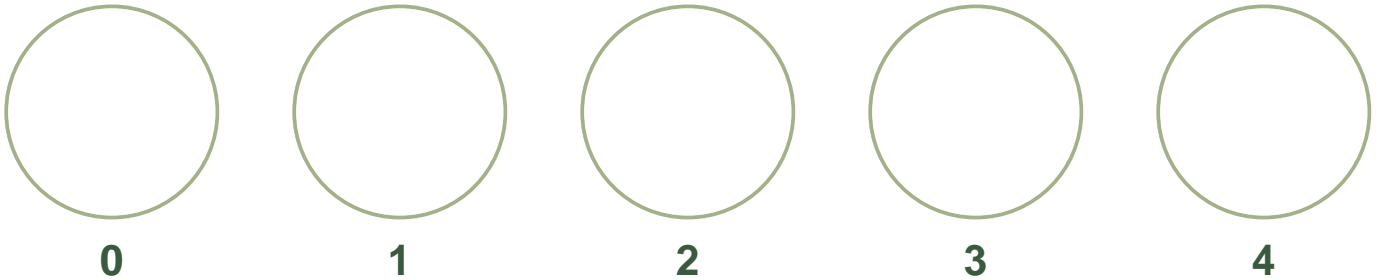
When we counted spindles, the very first box was special — it had a 0 on it and we put NOTHING inside. Zero is the number we use when there is none of something. An empty hand has zero pebbles in it!

Activity 1 — The Silent Zero Game (Montessori 'zero game')

- Sit in a circle. Whisper a number to a child, e.g. 'Please bring me 3 beads.'
- Sometimes whisper 'Please bring me 0 beads.' The child should come with EMPTY hands and show that zero means bringing nothing. This delights children and fixes the idea of zero.

Activity 2 — Draw the empty set

- In each plate below, draw the number of apples shown. The plate marked 0 stays empty!



Activity 3 — Trace and write 0

