CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PURCHASE OF THIS REALLY GOOD STUFF® COUNTER THE DAYS POCKET CHART—A COLORFUL AND INTERACTIVE WAY TO COUNT THE DAYS IN SCHOOL WITH NUMBER CARDS AND COUNTING STICKS. AN EASY-TO-USE SECTION HELPS STUDENTS CALCULATE HOW MANY DAYS REMAIN.

THIS REALLY GOOD STUFF® PRODUCT INCLUDES:
- Pocke chart with storage pockets and grommets for hanging
- 43 numeral cards, including a special 100th Day card
- 220 colored craft-stick counters
- 20 small rubber bands
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND USE:
- Hang the pocket chart on a chart rack, attach it to a bulletin board with push pins, or attach it to a magnetic board with magnetic hooks
- Cut the cards apart and store them in the small pocket on the front of the chart
- Store the craft-stick counters and rubber bands in the large pocket
- Display at a level where students can interact with the chart

SUGGESTIONS FOR STORAGE AND CARE:
- Fold the pocket chart lengthwise for easy storage
- Clean the pocket chart with a damp sponge

INTRODUCING THE COUNTING THE DAYS POCKET CHART
Display the Counting the Days Pocket Chart in your morning activity center for a colorful way to count the days of school. Count out the exact number of craft-stick counters for the number of school days required in your district. Place the counters in the large section of the storage pocket. Gather students together and explain that, each morning, they are going to talk about how many days they have been in school. To begin, choose a student to place a craft-stick counter in the ones-place pocket on the right side of the pocket chart and put the corresponding numeral card in the pocket above. Have the student say the number of the day. For example, the student would say, “Today is day one.” When it is time to place the 10th craft-stick counter in the ones pocket, help the student band the sticks together with a rubber band, then put the bundle in the tens-place pocket. Follow the same procedure when there are 10 bundles of 10 craft sticks, and move them to the hundreds pocket.

COUNTING THE DAYS

NAME

COUNTING THE DAYS POCKET CHART

INSTRUCTION GUIDE

COUNTING THE DAYS POCKET CHART

ALL ACTIVITY GUIDES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE:

COUNTING THE DAYS REPRODUCIBLE

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“first day.” Show them the index card with the word “first.” Explain to students that words such as first, second, and third are called ordinal numbers. Each day, place the remaining index cards on a table near the pocket chart and have a student choose the correct ordinal number for the day. Use the cards to create a display by placing them in order near the pocket chart.

**Place Value At-A-Glance**

Reinforce place value each morning as the students count the days on the chart. Make a copy of the Place Value Chart Reproducible and laminate it. As craft-stick counters are added each day, talk about how many counters can be in each place value pocket and why the counters need to be banded and moved from pocket to pocket. Each morning before morning exercises, challenge a student to use a dry erase marker to draw the appropriate number of sticks for the day on the laminated Place Value Chart. After the class works together to fill in the chart, have the student compare the reproducible to the pocket chart to see if he or she is correct. You can also use the chart to teach place value lessons during math, and then return the appropriate counters and cards to the chart in preparation for the days-in-school counting activity the next morning.

**Super Subtraction**

Periodically, challenge students to create and solve subtraction problems to identify how many days are left until specific days, such as 100th Day, the halfway point in the school year, vacation days, or report card days. Label an index card with the number of school days required in your district, then display the card near the pocket chart. During months with special days, challenge students to create subtraction problems to count how many days are left until that day.

**Estimation Fun**

Several times during the year, challenge students with an estimation activity. Gather all of the counters that have been placed in the ones, tens, and hundreds pockets and hold them in one hand. Gather the remaining sticks from the storage pocket in the other hand. Show both hands to the students and ask them to estimate the number of counters in each hand. After listening to several responses, have students count the sticks in each hand and report the numbers to the class. Use this opportunity to teach or review greater than and less than concepts and symbols as the class compares the two numbers. After doing this estimation activity a few times, occasionally assign the job to students as part of morning activities.

**Counting the Days**

Let your students keep their own record of the days in school with the Counting the Days Reproducible. Make two copies of the reproducible and fill in appropriate information for your school year by circling the last day of school, halfway day, and other important days. Make copies of each sheet for each student. Have students write their names at the tops of their sheets and then staple the sheets together. Explain to students that each day they are in school, they can color a smiley face to mark the day and write the number of the day underneath it. For young students, you can label the lines with the numbers for the days before making the copies. Have students keep their sheets in their classroom folders and color and label a smiley face each day. You can also have students use the sheets to count the days that are left, decide if the year is half over, count how long it is until important days, or just have fun coloring and recording the days in school.
Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® Counting the Days Pocket Chart—a colorful and interactive way to count the days in school with number cards and counting sticks. An easy-to-use section helps students calculate how many days remain.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
• Pocket chart with storage pockets and grommets for hanging
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• 220 colored craft-stick counters
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How Many Days Are Left?
Model for students how to find out how many days are left in school. Begin by writing the number of days in your school year on the board and saying to students, “There are ________ days of school in our school year. Does anyone know how many days we will have left after today?” Have several students respond and ask a student with the correct answer to explain how the answer was arrived at. Each day, according to your students’ level, model how to find the answer by writing a problem on the board or by showing them how to count up to the total amount of days. Choose a student to come up to the pocket chart and place the correct small numeral card(s) in the pockets under the Days in School and Days Left of School headers. After students have had some practice in solving how many days are left, challenge students to fill in the Days in School and Days Left of School sections each day.

Ordinal Numbers
Start from day one and use the Counting the Days Pocket Chart each morning to introduce your students to ordinal numbers. Label index cards with the ordinal number words that are appropriate for your students’ level. As a student says the number of the day and places the counter and numeral card on the pocket chart, ask if there is another way to say the number for the day. Listen to several ideas and then tell students that they can also call it the
“first day.” Show them the index card with the word “first.” Explain to students that words such as first, second, and third are called ordinal numbers. Each day, place the remaining index cards on a table near the pocket chart and have a student choose the correct ordinal number word for the day. Use the cards to create a display by placing them in order near the pocket chart.

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