

## ACTIVITY IA7.1: Counting Items in Equal Groups

**Intended learning:** To use skip counting to count items in equal groups.

**Instructional mode:** Shorter, inquiry mode for whole group, small group or individuals.

**Materials:** A collection of objects or pictures of objects that come in equal groups (e.g. pairs of shoes, wheels on tricycles, fingers on one or two hands).

**Description:** This initial exploration allows students to develop the concept of using a group as a unit. Introduce the discussion by saying, *How many fingers are in this room?* Have one student stand. *How many fingers do you have?* Continue to have students stand one at a time and identify the new number of fingers displayed. If the notion of skip counting does not emerge prompt with, *How many fingers do most people have? Is there a way we can quickly count all these fingers?* Repeat the process with other equal groups. Initially each item in each group should be visible. Eventually, each group should be visible, but the items within each group should not be discernible. For example, fingers in the four-finger wrapped Kit Kat bars allow students to reason about the individual fingers without seeing them until they are unwrapped.

**Responses, variations and extensions:**

- This activity is most effective after students have experience with the forward number word sequences of 10s, 5s, 3s and 2s.
- If students count by ones prompt with *How could we count this more quickly?*