



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Growing Active
READERS

Count on Pablo

Target Age: K to 3rd Grade

About the book:

Count on Pablo

by Barbara deRubertis

Publisher: Kane Press

ISBN#: 978-1-57565-090-6

Pablo is happy to go to the market with Abuela (grandmother). He counts the fruits and vegetables to sell at the market. Pablo also uses his problem-solving skills to help Abuela sell all the food at her booth.

Key Ideas

By the time you finish this discussion guide, your child will be able to **point to examples** of these key ideas in the book you read and discuss **real-life examples**, too. Use these definitions to explain the ideas. We have also included ways children can show they are ready to use them in their daily lives.

1. **Solving problems** – When problems come up, we try to deal with them. Solving problems means finding what works best for us and taking action to make things better.

How kids show it: They can describe problems and come up with a few ideas to make things better.

2. **Earning** – People use their time and skills to get money. Paper money and coins have different values.

How kids show it: They can identify the different jobs people in the family and the community do to earn money.

3. **Flexibility** – It is important to learn from mistakes. We can change our plans and try something new if our first idea is not working.

How kids show it: They can talk about a time when their plans didn't turn out how they wanted and what they did instead.

Something to think about

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas:

- Pablo helps Abuela pick, clean, and bag her fruit and vegetables before they can go to the market. He takes pride in helping her get ready. Children feel good when they help others.
- Children and families face problems every day. The family in the story solves the problem of not being able to sell their produce. They are creative and flexible.
- At the market, Abuela is happy with Pablo's creativity in making salsa to go with chips.
- Money is not our only resource. Sometimes we can use our skills to help ourselves and others.

Something to talk about

Before you begin to read the story with your child, look at the cover of the book together. Ask what the story might be about. As you read the story with your child, talk about these ideas:

- Pablo needs to help Abuela pick, clean, and bag her fruits and vegetables before they can go to the market. Have you ever picked fruits or vegetables from a garden?
- Pablo is good at counting and following directions. What skills are you good at?
- People at the market have many different jobs. What other jobs do you see in the book? Which jobs would you like to do?
- Why is Pablo upset when Abuela has not sold her fruits and vegetables?
- How did Pablo solve the problem of not selling any fruits and vegetables? What might have

happened if Pablo didn't solve it?

- Pablo and Abuela made salsa to bring people to their stand. What other ideas would help them sell produce?
- Pablo likes to work with Abuela at the market. What are some things that you could do to earn money?

Something to do

Pretend store (Ages 3+): Pretend to open a market, restaurant, or some other kind of store you and your child can decide what to sell and how to set up your store. Talk about the different jobs that are needed at a store. Use real or play money to practice “buying” or “selling” items at your store. You can also practice solving problems, for example: How will we get to the store? Where will we put our money? What if the store runs out of bread?

Shopping trip (Ages 3+): The next time you are at the store, talk with your child about the different jobs people have at the store. Is there a cashier who manages money, a person who sets up displays, or a manager who orders all the supplies? What kind of skills does that person need to do their job? Which jobs would your child like to do?

How many ways? (Ages 3+): Sometimes we get into a habit and do the same thing every day. Pick something you do every day and talk about the diverse ways to do that task. For example, what are all the different ways people get to school or work? Car, bus, walk, ride a bike – how many other ways can you think of?

Cooking (Ages 3+): Have fun with math skills and make a yummy treat. Pick a recipe to make with your child. Give your child a useful job when you make the food. As you cook, help your child count the number of cups and spoonful's, how many pieces you chop, or how many times you stir. (Ages 6+) Children can practice math and reading by following a recipe. Let your child read the recipe and plan out the steps for cooking. Talk about what jobs each of you is good at and what needs more practice, like stirring chopping, or following directions. Try solving problems – for example, what could you do if you did not have something needed for your recipe? You can also plan how many ingredients you need to double a recipe or cut it in half.