Now you are starting to count items with your child. Remember to point to or touch each item and slowly count one at a time.

Sometimes you will need to rearrange the items so they are easy to count, e.g. arrange items in a line rather than in a group.

Many activities in the home rely on counting.

Counting out the cutlery together at mealtimes:

Counting pieces of fruit:

Counting toys back into the toy box:

These are many great ways for your child to practise their counting with you at home!
Numerals are just the written form of a number.

Here are some fun activities you can do with your child to help them to understand the numerals 1 to 5:

- Write the numeral 1 on several pieces of paper and ask your child to find 1 object to go on each piece of paper. Your child could also colour in the number 1.

- Make the numeral 2 from dough. You can paint it together and add sand to give it texture. You could also make the numeral out of old wrapping paper or from magazines. Be as creative as you wish!

- Create a jigsaw. Draw a large 3 on a piece of paper and make draw lines onto it to make a jigsaw. Cut out the pieces and put the numeral 3 back together, like a jigsaw. (This can be repeated using more lines to make the jigsaw more difficult).
Use pages from a colouring book you have. Add the numeral 4 to any pictures of 4 items. Colour in the numeral 4 and the pictures; counting as your child does so.

Think about all the different ways to show 5. Collect items, make pictures and cut out a large 5 and stick your ideas of 'what 5 looks like' on the large 5.

You can repeat these activities for different numerals to reinforce your child's understanding of the numerals 1 to 5.

Now you are ready to match the numerals 1 to 5 to pictures or groups of objects.
Matching Activities:

Make groups of objects, e.g. breakfast cereal, toy cars or colouring pencils. Write one numeral from 1 to 5 on a square of paper. Mix up the squares of paper and set them near to the group of objects you had made. Ask your child to match the numeral to the number of items. If it is food or sweets, you might even get to eat some!

Draw pictures of the same item (1 to 5) and write the numerals 1 to 5 on paper plates. Ask your child to count the number of items on each paper plate, reminding them to point to each item in turn as they count, and match the picture to the numeral.
Counting slowly and pointing while counting will help your child count and match numerals correctly. In the picture below, the numeral 3 is reversed. Help your child to recognise the direction of the numerals 1 to 5 and you can reinforce this by tracing, 'air' writing and writing the number in sand.

Extension: When your child is confident with one-to-one correspondence and recognising and understanding the numerals 1 to 5, you can repeat the fun activities above for numbers greater than 5.