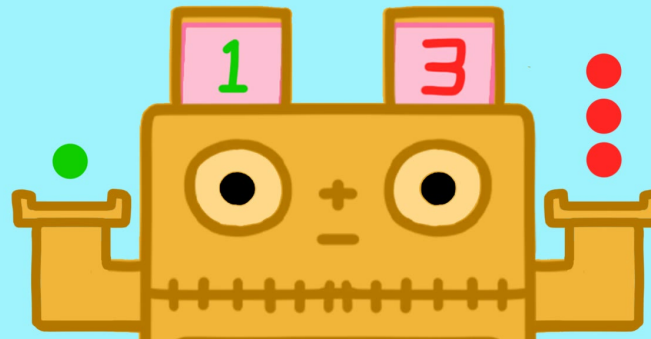




Charging Robot

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Charge the Robot

Build a cardboard robot, make number cards, and use two groups of pom-pom energy balls for each charge. Counting the combined total gives early addition a visible purpose.

Helps Your Child Grow



Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Placing two numbered groups of energy balls into the robot and counting the combined set helps your child experience addition as putting quantities together.



Writing

Writing number cards and recording each total gives your child a meaningful reason to make and use written numerals.



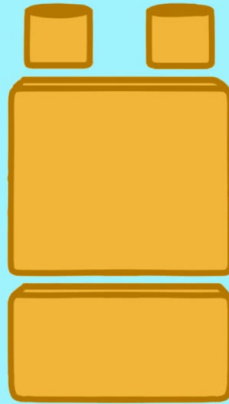
What You'll Need



Glue



Scissors



2 cardboard boxes

2 cardboard tubes

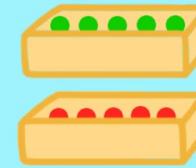


Sticky notes



Red marker

Green marker



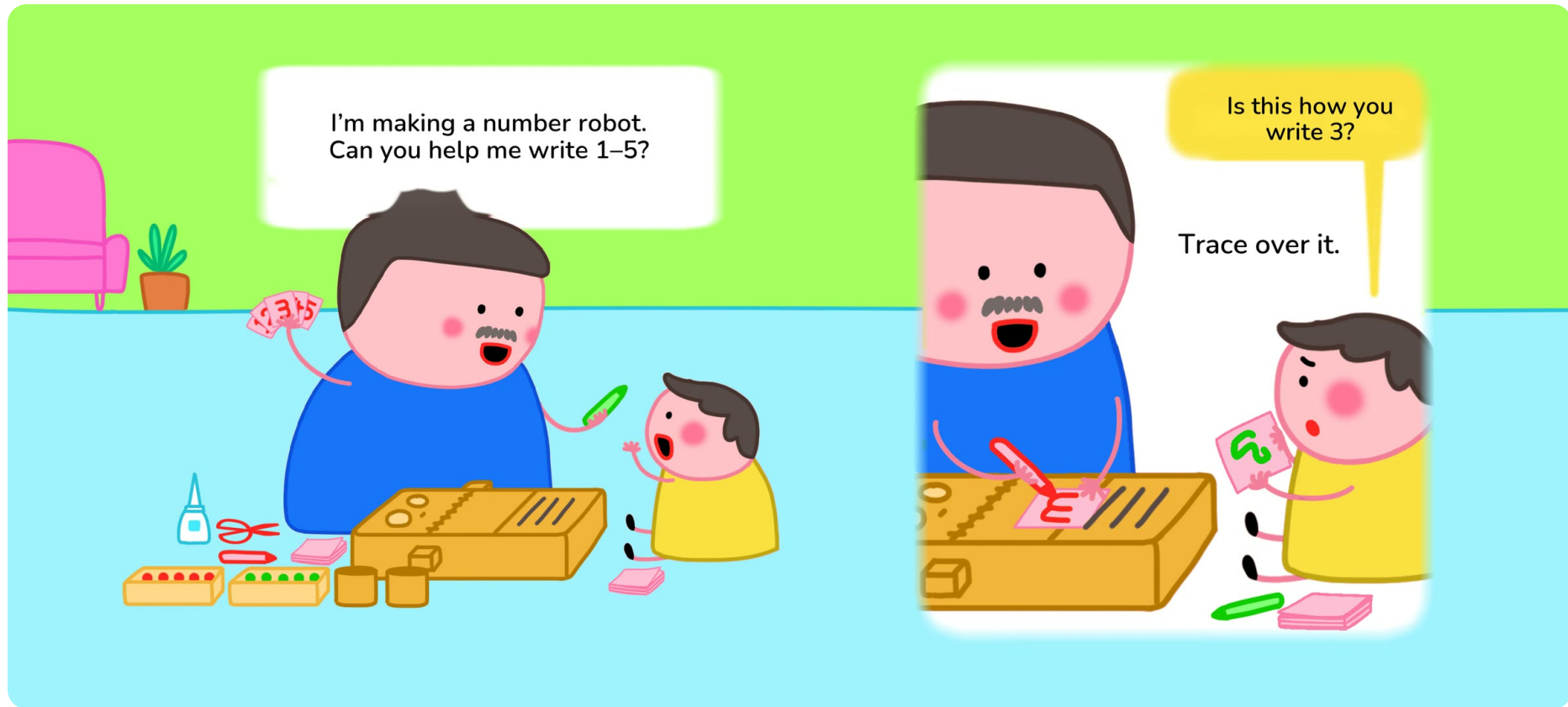
5 red pom-poms



5 green pom-poms

What You'll Need

1. Sticky notes, red and green markers, five red pom-poms, five green pom-poms
2. markers, glue, scissors, a cardboard box, and a paper tube for making the robot



Build the Charging Robot

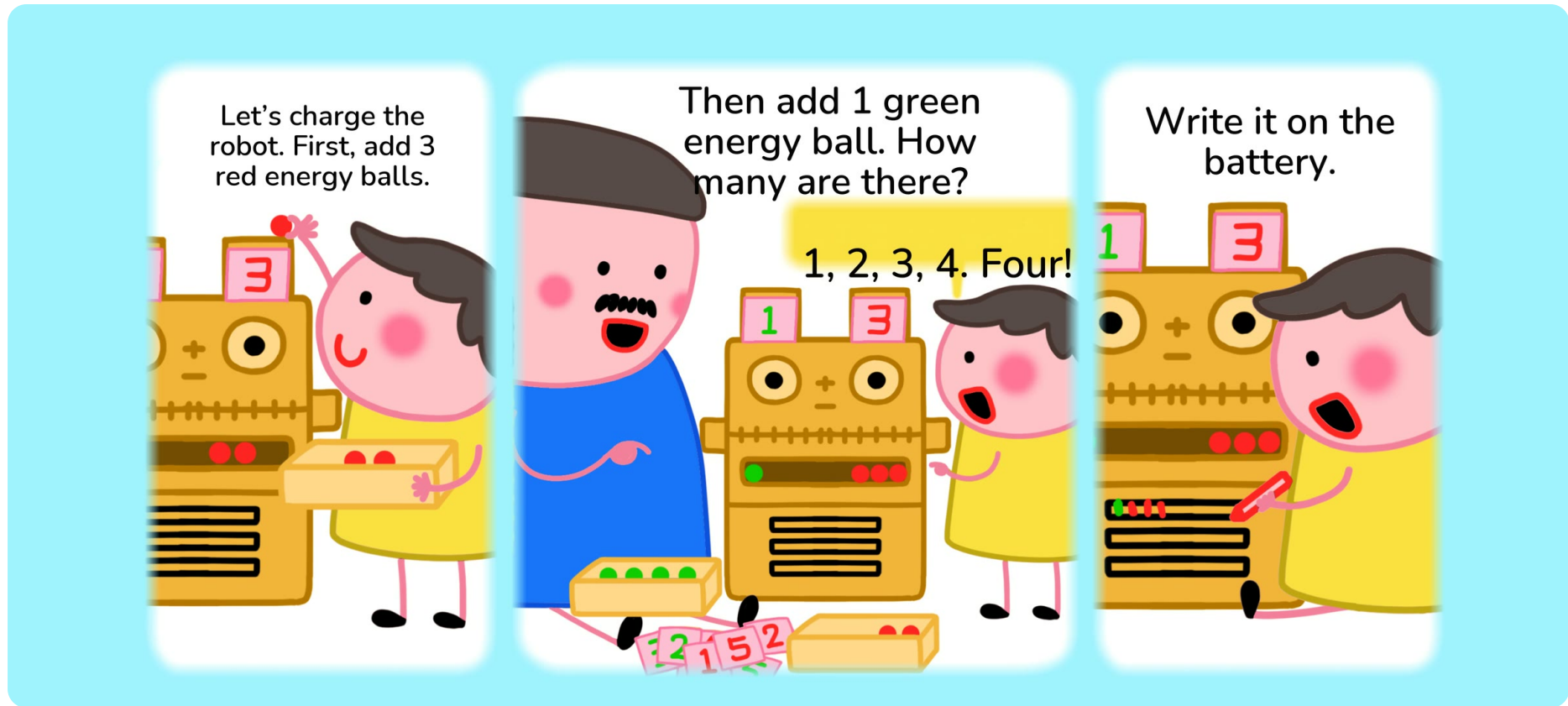
Build and decorate a cardboard charging robot together. Invite your child to be the charging engineer and make energy cards numbered 1 through 5. Explain that each card will tell how many energy balls the robot needs.

Observations

- Attempts to write numerals 1 through 5 on the cards
- Joins in decorating the robot

Tips

- At 48 months, reversed, tilted, or approximate numerals are common while hand control is still developing.
- If a 3 is reversed, write one clearly and invite your child to trace it.
- The charging story gives number writing and combining quantities a playful purpose.
- Your child can also attach cards, decorate the robot, and choose its colors and features.
- More hands-on choices can make the whole build more engaging.



Combine Red and Green Energy

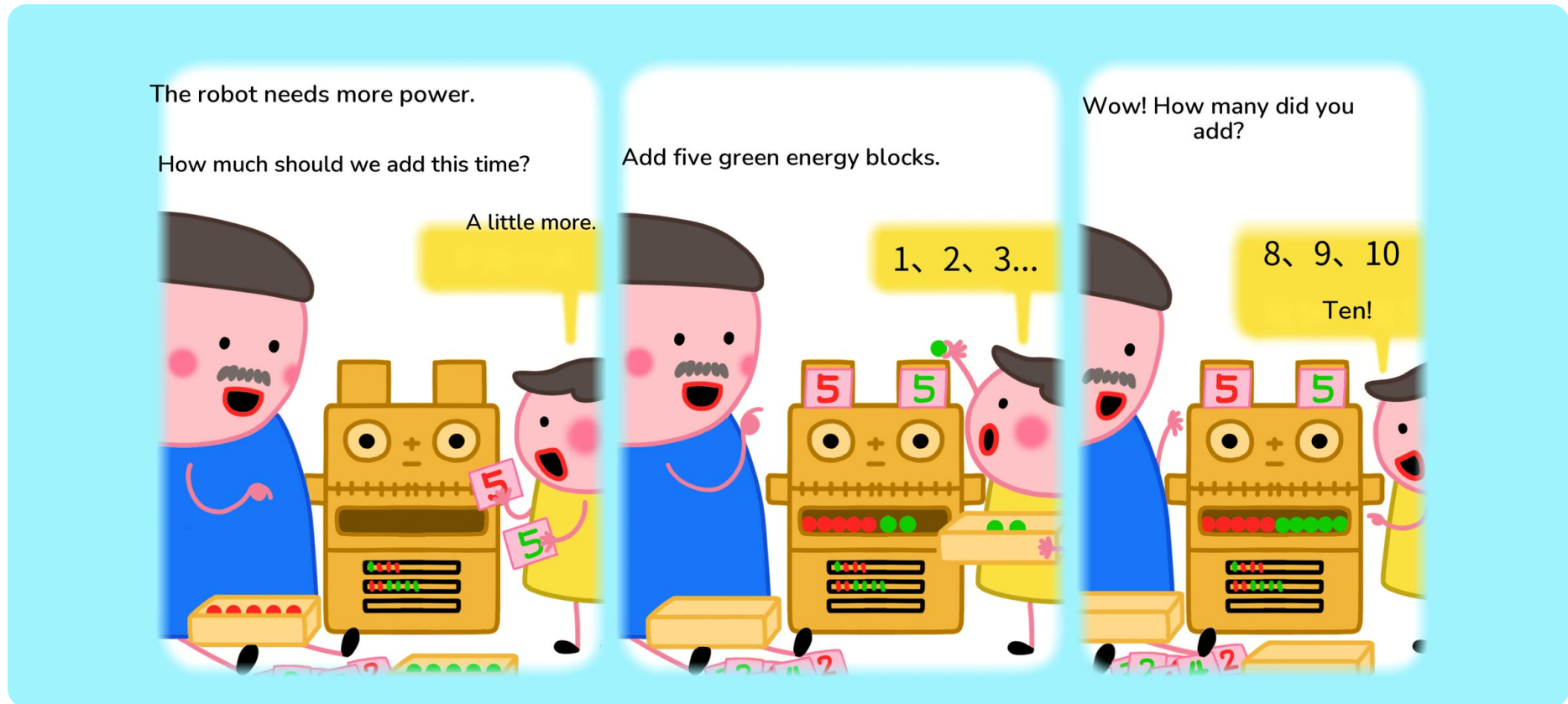
Explain that three charges will power the robot. For the first charge, place a red 3 card and a green 1 card on the robot. Ask your child to add three red energy balls and one green ball, then count how many are inside altogether.

Observations

- Counts both colors of pom-poms together to find the total
- Touches each pom-pom while counting and says how many there are altogether

Tips

- Your child may recount every ball from one rather than count on from three. That is a valid way to find the total.
- Record each pair and total to connect the concrete balls with “three plus one equals four.”
- The robot is the hook. Repeated loading and counting creates the addition experience.
- Using two colors keeps the original groups visible before they are counted as one total.



Choose New Numbers

For the next charges, let your child choose how many balls of each color to add. Place the balls, count the combined total, and record it on the battery. After three charges, move and speak as the fully powered robot.

Observations

- Makes a record on the robot's battery
- Says how many energy balls they want to add

Tips

- If counting to 5 is easy, expand the number cards through 10.
- New number pairs create new totals and invite another round.
- Cover the battery record with fresh paper so the robot can be charged again.