**Cover letter**

Our manuscript ”Sharpening the lens on numbers and counting” is original text written by ourselves and is not under consideration for publication in any other journal or publisher. The study reported in the manuscript is part of a larger research project FASETT (grant nr. 721-2014-1791) and will be of substantial importance to the Swedish preschool teacher community, but has interesting relations to other countries as well, in particular where the social-pedagogical approach to early childhood education is dominating. This approach has certain implications for education and children’s learning in the early years, but there is a large gap in the field of knowledge on early mathematics education and particularly the teachers’ professionality, which our study is a contribution to.

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