

# How to count the number of child records under a parent using Apex

Mike Arthur • Aug 16, 2017

No need for any counter, use a Set and an Aggregate query

```

//***** Here is the Aggregate query...don't count in loops, let the DB do it for you*****
for (AggregateResult ar : [SELECT AccountId AcctId, Count(id) ContactCount
    FROM Contact
    WHERE AccountId in: acctIds
    GROUP BY AccountId]){
    Account a = new Account();
    a.Id = (Id) ar.get('AcctId'); //--> handy trick for updates, set the id and update
    a.Contact_Count__c = (Integer) ar.get('ContactCount');
    acctsToRollup.add(a);
}

```

No content of my own here, just a pointer to someone who really knows what he's talking about, Peter\_sfdc, the mighty Peter Chittum, check out his reply here:

<https://developer.salesforce.com/forums/?id=906F0000000AcdaIAC>

(Of course, if you don't have a good reason to use Apex, you can always go with Flow, as explained by the equally mighty Mike Gill:

<http://www.salesforceweek.ly/2015/02/how-to-create-roll-up-summaries-using-flow.html>

<http://www.salesforceweek.ly/2015/02/how-to-create-roll-up-summaries-using-flow-part-2.html> )