

Counting Songs and Rhymes

Chicken Count

Counting to 10 and associating pairs of numbers can be a fun and silly way to develop basic number recognition. Use visuals props to show numbers as you sing them (chickens with numerals on them). Make up your own movements! This song is great for listening and auditory memory as children answer back exactly what the leader sings.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Chickens out of the chicken pen!
Chicken 1 and Chicken 2
Chicken 1 and Chicken 2
Let's all do the chicken chew
Let's all do the chicken chew
(Make chicken sounds)
(Kids repeat the chicken sounds)

Chicken 2 and Chicken 3
See those chickens in a tree
Chicken 3 and Chicken 4
See those sleepy chickens snore
Chicken 4 and Chicken 5
See those crazy chickens jive
Chicken 5 and Chicken 6
See those chickens with their chicks
Chicken 6 and Chicken 7
See those fly to heaven
Chicken 7 and Chicken 8
See those chickens on the gate
Chicken 8 and Chicken 9
See those chickens oh so fine
... Chicken 9 and Chicken 10
Let's all strut back to our pen.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Chickens back to the chicken pen!

Five Crispy Pancakes

Children could toss paper pancakes in a real pan or use real Scotch pancakes for the children to buy

Five crispy pancakes in a frying pan,
Flip them and toss them and catch them if you can.
Along came (choose a child),
For a pancake one day
Sprinkled it with sugar and took it away.

Four crispy pancakes in a frying pan...

Five Little Snowmen

Sing with props and ask children to find correct numeral as each snowman melts, or show the number of snowmen on their fingers or communication aid. Or give the children funny hats and ask them to act out being the snowmen. One child could be the sun and hold a big yellow circle over the snowman that is going to melt.

Five little snowmen were very fat,
Each one wore a funny hat;
Out came the sun and melted one,
And four little snowmen stood in the sun.
(continue counting down to one)
One little snowman was very sad,
He still had his funny hat,
Down came the snow
and the children played,
And built four more snowmen on that winter's day!

Five Currant Buns

This song can be acted out by asking one child to be the baker and other children to be the shoppers. Children could bring real or large pennies and take object or picture currant buns away.

Five currant buns in a baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top,
Along came (insert name) with a penny one day
Bought a currant bun and took it away
Four currant buns in a baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top,
Along came (insert name) with a penny one day.
Bought a currant bun and took it away.
Continue the same with three, two and one currant bun

Ten Little Children

This could be sung by labelling the children with numerals and asking them to stand up when their number is sung.

One little, two little, three little children.
Four little, five little, six little children.
Seven little, eight little, nine little children.
Ten children in the room.
Ten little, nine little, eight little children.
Seven little, six little, five little children.
Four little, three little, two little children.
One child in the room.

Five Little Monkeys

Children could act out song, jumping up and down and falling over in turn, or use visual props of monkeys with numeral cards.

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed."
No more monkeys jumping on the bed.
Four little monkeys jumping on the bed.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed."
No more monkeys jumping on the bed.
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed."
No more monkeys jumping on the bed.
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed."
No more monkeys jumping on the bed.
One little monkey jumping on the bed.
He fell off and bumped his head.
Called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed."
No more monkeys jumping on the bed.

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

One, two, buckle my shoe,
Three, four, open the door,
Five, six, pick up sticks,
Seven, eight, lay them straight,
Nine, ten, the big fat hen,
Eleven, twelve, dig and delve,
Thirteen, fourteen, maids a-courting,
Fifteen, sixteen, maids in the kitchen,
Seventeen, eighteen, ladies waiting,
Nineteen, twenty, my plate's empty.

One, Two, Three, Four, Five

1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
Once I caught a fish alive,
6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so,
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.

This Old Man

This old man, he played one,
He played knick-knack on my thumb;
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.
This old man, he played two,
He played knick-knack on my shoe;
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.
This old man, he played three,
He played knick-knack on my knee...etc.
This old man, he played four,
He played knick-knack on my door...etc.
This old man, he played five,
He played knick-knack on my hive...etc.
This old man, he played six,
He played knick-knack on my sticks...etc.
This old man, he played seven,
He played knick-knack up in Heaven...etc.
This old man, he played eight,
He played knick-knack on my gate...etc.
This old man, he played nine,
He played knick-knack on my spine...etc.
This old man, he played ten,
He played knick-knack once again...etc.

One and Two

Use with the appropriate numerals. Encourage children to identify and point to the relevant body parts as they are named.

I love the number one - it's so much fun.
I love the number one - it's so much fun.
Show me one nose.
Show me one mouth.
Show me one belly button.
Show me one little chin.
I love the number two - yes, I do.
I love the number two - yes, I do.
Show me two ears.
Show me two eyes.
Show me two hands.
Show me two little feet.

One, Two, Tie My Shoe

One, two, tie my shoe
Three, four, shut the door
Five, six, pick up sticks
Seven, eight, lay them straight
Nine, ten a big fat hen.
Let's get up and count again!

Counting Hokey Pokey

Put the correct numbers of fingers in and out on each verse. The song gives the children plenty of time to get a kinaesthetic sense of the finger manipulations for each number

You put one finger in. You take one finger out.
You put one finger in and you shake it all about.
Do the hokey pokey and you turn your fingers round
That's what it's all about.
You put two fingers in. You take two fingers out.
You put two fingers in and you shake 'em all about.
Do the hokey pokey and turn your fingers round
That's what it's all about.

Chorus:

Let's do the Counting Hokey Pokey
Do the Counting Hokey Pokey
Do the Counting Hokey Pokey
That's what it's all about.

Five Little Seashells

Five little seashells

Hold out five fingers.

Lying on the shore.

Swish...

Open your other hand and pass it over the five fingers.
went the waves.

...and make a light fist with the first hand.

Pass the open hand back over the first,

And then there were four.

... and hold out four fingers.

Continue these motions for the following verses:

Four little seashells, pretty as can be.

Swish went the waves. Then there were three.

Three little seashells, all pearly new.

Swish went the waves. Then there were two.

Two little seashells, lying in the sun.

Swish went the waves. Then there was one.

One little seashell, lying all alone.

I picked it up. *Point one finger in the air*

I took it home. *...and put it in your pocket.*



Ten Green Bottles

Ten green bottles
Sitting on the wall
Ten green bottles
Sitting on the wall
And if one green bottle
Should accidentally fall
There'll be nine green bottles
Sitting on the wall
This continues with:
Nine green bottles
Sitting on the wall...etc.
And finishes with:
One green bottle
Sitting on the wall
One green bottle
Sitting on the wall
If that one green bottle
Should accidentally fall
There'll be no green bottles
Sitting on the wall

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went swimming one day,
Over the pond and far away.
Mummy duck said,
Quack, quack, quack, quack.
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went swimming one day,
Over.....etc

until

But no little ducks came swimming back,
So Mummy duck said,
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.
And five little ducks came swimming back.

Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log.
Eating the most delicious worms
YUM, YUM.
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Then there were four green speckled frogs
GLUG, GLUG.

Four little speckled frogs,

Continue until all the frogs have gone.

The Pirate Song

When I was one,
I banged my drum.
The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard a pirate ship,
And the captain said to me,
We're going, this way, that way,
Forwards and backwards,
Over the deep blue sea.
A bottle of rum, to warm my tum,
And that's the life for me.

When I was two,
I buckled my shoe.....

When I was three,
I banged my knee....

When I was four,
I knocked on the door....

When I was five,
I learned to dive.....
When I was six,
I shipped some bricks.....

When I was seven,
I went to heaven....

When I was eight,
I broke a plate....

When I was nine,
I the ship was mine.....

When I was ten,
I started again.....

Ten In The Bed

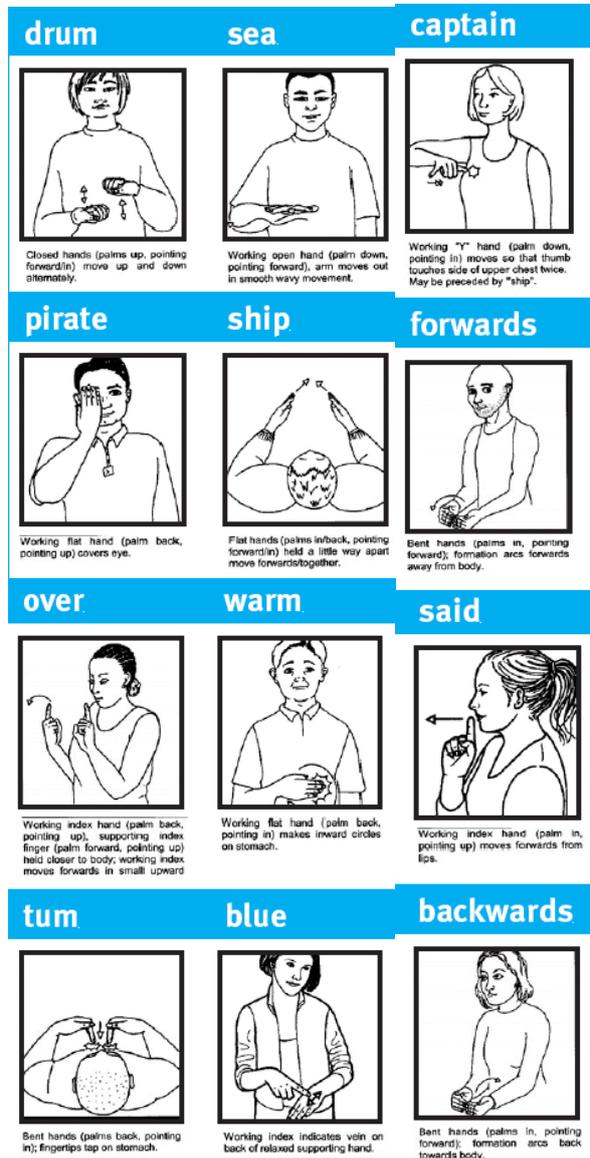
There were ten in the bed
And the little one said
'Roll over, roll over'
So they all rolled over
And one fell out
Bumped his head,
And gave a shout,
Please remember,
To tie a knot in your pyjamas,
Single beds are only made for (then shouted) One, two,
three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine in the bed and...

This continues with:

There were nine in the bed
And the little one said...etc

And finishes with:

There was one in a bed
And the little one said
'Good night!'



Squirrels

This rhyme is useful to introduce ordinal number. Pictures of the squirrels could be lined up to show their order. Children could stick ordinal labels (1st, 2nd, etc.) on them.

Five little squirrels sitting in a tree.
The first one said, "What do I see?"
The second one said, "Some nuts on the ground."
The third one said, "Those nuts I found."
The fourth one said, "I'll race you there."
The Fifth one said, "All right, that's fair."
So they shook their tails and ran with glee.
To the nuts that lay at the foot of the tree.

When I was One

When I was one I'd just begun;
When I was two I was nearly new;
When I was three I was hardly me;
When I was four I was not much more;
When I was five I was just alive;
But now I am six I'm clever as clever
So I think I'll be six now for ever and ever!

The Animals Go Marching

Hold up the appropriate number of fingers and make them to the actions (crawl, hop, gallop, etc.) Or make picture sets of the animals and ask a child to hold up the right set for each verse.

The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
They all were red and the first one said:
"You'd better catch up, I'm way ahead."
And they all went marching one by one by one.
The spiders go crawling two by two hurrah, hurrah...
They were side by side and the second one cried,
"I wish I had someone to give me a ride."
And they all went crawling two by two by two.
The birds go flying three by three hurrah, hurrah...
Their feet were bare as they flew through the air
The third one said, "I'd like shoes to wear."
And they all went flying three by three by three.
The rabbits go hopping four by four hurrah, hurrah...
They hipped and hopped and bounced and bopped—
The fourth one got tired and down she plopped.
And they all went hopping four by four by four.
The horses go galloping five by five hurrah, hurrah...
The fifth in line said "I feel fine;
"I love to gallop all the time."
And they all went galloping five by five by five.
The fish go swimming six by six hurrah, hurrah...
Their tails went *swish* and the sixth one wished
He wouldn't end up as a tasty dish.
And they all went swimming six by six by six.
The mice go creeping seven by seven hurrah, hurrah...
The seventh was meek, he let out a squeak:
"I can't see a thing; I'm afraid to peek!"
And they all went creeping seven by seven by seven.
The worms go wiggling eight by eight hurrah, hurrah...
The eighth one thought, "It's awfully hot—
I'd like to rest in a shady spot."
But they all kept wiggling eight by eight by eight.
The monkeys go swinging nine by nine hurrah, hurrah..
The ninth one called to one and all,
"I hope you'll catch me if I fall!"
And they all went swinging nine by nine by nine.
The kids go walking ten by ten hurrah, hurrah...
The tenth one knew they were so cool,
'Cause they were on their way to school.
And they all went walking ten by ten by ten

Over In the Meadow

Assign sets of children to be the different animals in the song. Have them get up and move around appropriately when their verse is sung. Have children paint pictures to illustrate the song. Make up additional verses for the numerals 6-10. For example, "Over in the meadow in a home made of sticks lived an old mother rabbit and her little rabbits six..."

Over in the meadow in the sand and the sun
Lived an old mother froggie and her little froggie one.
"Hop," said the mother. "I hop," said the one.
So they hopped and were glad in the sand and the sun.
Over in the meadow where the stream runs blue
Lived an old mother fishie and her little fishies two.
"Swim," said the mother. "We swim," said the two.
So they swam and were glad where the stream runs blue.
Over in the meadow in the nest in the tree
Lived an old mother birdie and her little birdies three.
"Fly," said the mother. "We fly," said the three.
So they flew and were glad in the nest in the tree.
Over in the meadow by the old apple core
Lived an old mother wormie and her little wormies four.
"Squirm," said the mother. "We squirm," said the four.
So they squirmed and were glad by the old apple core.
Over in the meadow by the big bee hive
Lived an old mother bee and her baby bees five.
"Buzz," said the mother. "We buzz," said the five.
So they buzzed and were glad by the big bee hive.

Dinosaurs

Five enormous dinosaurs
Letting out a roar--
One went away, and
Then there were four.
Four enormous dinosaurs
Crashing down a tree--
One went away, and
Then there were three.
Three enormous dinosaurs
Eating tiger stew--
One went away, and
Then there were two.
Two enormous dinosaurs
Trying to run--
One ran away, and
Then there was one.
One enormous dinosaur,
Afraid to be a hero--
He went away, and
Then there was zero

Writing Numbers

Write the numbers in the air as you chant. Or get children to draw them with their finger in shaving foam or on sandpaper. Alternatively they could write them on large pieces of paper on a vertical surface with a wax crayon. All of these provide lots of sensory feedback. Children repeat each line after it is chanted

Zero is where it all begins- (Slap thighs to the beat.)
Curve down around and up again.
Number one is so much fun—
Pull straight down and you've got a one.
Number two is easy to do—
Up around down and across makes two.
Number three is simple to see—
Draw two humps sideways and that's a three.
Number four I do adore—
Go down, across, then down some more.
We've reached five, now let's not stop—
Pull down, circle round, put a hat on top.
Number six is easy to fix—
Big curve, small loop will give you six.
Number seven is really sizzlin'—
Straight across, slant down, and that's a seven.
Number eight isn't very straight—
Make "S" then back up for an eight.
Number nine I think you're fine—
A loop on top of a long straight line.
Number ten we've reached the end—
Put a one by a zero and count again:
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10!

Five Little Birdies

Five little birdies, flying around our door,
The blue one flew away and then there were four.
Four little birdies sitting in a tree,
The yellow one flew away and then there were three.
The little birdies didn't know what to do,
So the red one flew away, and then there were two.
Two little birdies sitting in the sun,
The Brown one flew away, and there was one.
The little green birdie felt so all alone,
He/she flew away and then there was none.

Sing a Song of Numbers

Sung to: "Sing a Song of Sixpence"

Sing a song of numbers,
Count them one by one.
Sing a song of numbers,
We've only just begun.
One-two-three-four-five-six,
Seven-eight-nine-ten.
When we finish counting them,
We'll start them once again.

Writing Numbers Again

Write the numbers in the air as you chant. Or get children to draw them with their finger in shaving foam or on sandpaper. Alternatively they could write them on large pieces of paper on a vertical surface with a wax crayon. All of these provide lots of sensory feedback.

Number 1 is like a stick
A straight line down that's very quick!
For number 2 go right around
Then make a line across the ground!
Go right around. What will it be?
Go round again to make a 3!
Down and over and down some more
That's the way to make a 4!
Go down and around then you stop
Finish the 5 with a line on top!
Make a curve then a loop
There are no tricks to making a 6!
Across the sky and down from heaven
That's the way to make a 7!
Make a "S" and then don't wait
Climb up again to make an 8!
Make a loop and then a line
That's the way to make a 9!
Make a 1 and then an "o"
10 are all your fingers you know!

One Potato, Two Potato

Assign one child to be the "Counter". Ask the other children to stand in a circle and hold out their hands in a fist with thumbs up. The "counter" takes one fist and begins counting off each fist by gently tapping them. When the counter gets to "more", that fist is put behind that child's back. Keep repeating the rhyme over and over until one fist is left. That child is the winner and becomes the new leader.

One potato, two potato,
Three potato, four,
Five potato, six potato,
Seven potato, more!

Five Fat Peas

Five fat peas in a pea pod pressed
(children hold hand in a fist)
One grew, two grew, so did all the rest.
(put thumb and fingers up one by one)
They grew and grew
(raise hand in the air very slowly)
And did not stop,
Until one day
The pod went POP!
(children clap hands together)

The Skip Count Song

(to the tune of "Skip to my Lou")

Sing the verse then chant the number sequence (it doesn't fit in with the tune).

Skip count, count by 2's

Skip count, count by 2's

Skip count, count by 2's

We can count to 20.

"2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20!"

Skip count, count by 5's

Skip count, count by 5's

Skip count, count by 5's

We can count to 50.

"5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50!"

Skip count, count by 10's

Skip count, count by 10's

Skip count, count by 10's

We can count to 100.

"10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100!"

One, One, the Zoo is Lots of Fun

Make props to accompany each verse. Velcro each animal onto the appropriate numeral.

One, one,

The zoo is lots of fun

Two, two,

See a kangaroo

Three, three,

See a chimpanzee

Four, four,

Hear the lions roar

Five, five,

Watch the seals dive

Six, six,

There's a monkey doing tricks

Seven, seven,

Elephants eleven

Eight, eight,

A tiger and his mate

Nine, nine,

Penguins in a line

Ten, ten,

I want to come again!

Five Little Bees

One little bee blew and flew.

He met a friend, and that made two.

Two little bees, busy as could be--

Along came another and that made three.

Three little bees, wanted one more,

Found one soon and that made four.

Four little bees, going to the hive.

Spied their little brother, and that made five.

Five little bees working every hour--

Buzz away, bees, and find another flower.

Turtles

One baby turtle alone and new.

Finds a friend, and then there are two.

Two baby turtles crawl down to the sea.

They find another, and then there are three.

Three baby turtles crawl along the shore.

They find another, and then there are four.

Four baby turtles go for a dive.

Up swims another, and then there are five.

Five Little Tunafish

Five little tunafish

Swimmin' near the shore,

One got caught

And then there were four.

Four little tunafish

Swimmin' in the sea,

One met a shark

And then there were three.

Three little tunafish

In the ocean blue,

One went for lunch

And then there were two.

Two little tunafish

Soakin' in the sun,

One got fried

And then there was one.

One little tunafish

Found himself a job,

He got canned

And then there were none.

Five Little Mice

Five little mice came out to play
Gathering crumbs along the way
Out came pussycat sleek and fat
Four little mice go scampering back

Continue singing until...

One little mouse came out to play
Gathering crumbs along the way
Out came pussycat sleek and fat
No little mice go scampering back

Teasing Mr. Crocodile

Five little monkeys
Sitting in a tree
Teasing Mr. Crocodile,
"You can't catch me."
Along came Mr. Crocodile,
Quiet as can be
SNAP

Continue counting down

One little monkey
Sitting in a tree
Teasing Mr. Crocodile,
"You can't catch me."
Along came Mr. Crocodile,
Quiet as can be
SNAP

No more little monkeys
Sitting in a tree

Alice the Camel

Alice the camel has five humps.
Alice the camel has five humps.
Alice the camel has five humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Alice the camel has four humps.
Alice the camel has four humps.
Alice the camel has four humps.
So go, Alice, go.

Continue counting down

Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps.
Now Alice is a horse

Even and odd

Zero, two, four, six, eight
Being even is just great.
One, three, five, seven, nine
Being odd is just fine.

Odd and Even

If you are an even number
You always have a pair
So if you look around
Your buddy will always be there
But ...
If you are an odd number
There's always a lonely one
He looks around to find his buddy
But he's the only one.

Counting in 2's

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
Our legs, our arms, our hands, our feet
We count in pairs of two.
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
Our eyes, our ears, our socks, our shoes,
We count on me and you.
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20