

Count with Me!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Expose your child to numbers and numerals by sharing picture books that emphasize counting.
- **SHARE WORDS** Share new words with your child by counting to five in another language; for example, uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco (Spanish).
- **SHARE RHYMES** Help your child maneuver magnetic numerals while reciting the number rhymes we used in storytime.
- **SHARE SONGS** Make up number songs to familiar tunes while doing everyday activities like setting the table, getting dressed, or selecting items in the grocery store.
- **SHARE STORIES** Tell family stories that include numbers, such as how many members are in your family, how far away you live from grandparents, how many days are left until a visit from a relative, or how many minutes remain until you will read a story to your favorite audience (your child).
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Play games with your child that use numbers and numerals, such as hide and seek, hopscotch, Hi-Ho the Cherry-O, or Go Fish. For fun, count the steps from the car to the front door or across the backyard. Also, point out numerals on items in your home, such as the television, a clock, measuring cups and spoons, and grocery items.
- **SHARE WRITING** Cut numerals out of sandpaper or use magnetic numerals and let your child “feel” the shape and directionality of the symbol. Then, using your finger, trace different numerals in the palm of your child’s hand, and ask him to guess the numeral. He can also trace numerals in your hand.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

It’s Time for Storytime

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It’s time for storytime, (*Clap hands to beat*)
It’s time for storytime,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
It’s time for storytime.

We listen to some stories, (*Two fingers point to ears*)
We listen to some stories,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We listen to some stories.

We sing some songs and rhymes, (*Two fingers point to mouth*)
We sing some songs and rhymes,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
We sing some songs and rhymes.

And now we’ll have some fun, (*Pat knees or legs*)
And now we’ll have some fun,
Heigh-ho, the derry-o,
And now we’ll have some fun!

Five Little Monkeys

(sung to the tune of “Hush, Little Baby”)

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,
(*Children jump up and down*)
One fell off and bumped his head. (*Point to head*)
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
(*Hold palm for phone, other hand pushes “buttons”*)
No more monkeys jumping on the bed!
(*Shake one finger for “no”*)

Additional Verses (*All verses follow motions given in first verse*)

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed ...
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed ...
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed ...

One little monkey jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
Put all the little monkeys back to bed!

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

This Old Man

(Pat knees on “knick-knack,” clap hands on “paddywack,” and roll hands over each other for “rolling home”)

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.

Additional Verses

This old man, he played two,
He played knick-knack on my shoe ...

This old man, he played three,
He played knick-knack on my knee ...

This old man, he played four,
He played knick-knack on my door ...

This old man, he played five,
He played knick-knack on a hive ...

This old man, he played six,
He played knick-knack on my sticks ...

This old man, he played seven,
He played knick-knack up in heaven ...

This old man, he played eight,
He played knick-knack on my gate ...

This old man, he played nine,
He played knick-knack on my vine ...

This old man, he played ten,
He played knick-knack once again ...

Five in the Bed

There were five in the bed,
and the little one said,
“Roll over! Roll over!” *(Roll hands over each other)*
So they all rolled over, and one fell out!

Additional Verses

There were four in the bed ...

There were three in the bed ...

There were two in the bed ...

There was one in the bed, and the little one said, “Good night!” *(Rest head on hands)*

Rhymes

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

(Alternate clapping hands and patting lap to the beat every two lines)

One, two,
Buckle my shoe.
Three, four,
Shut the door.
Five, six,
Pick up sticks.
Seven, eight,
Lay them straight.
Nine, ten,
A big, fat hen!

When I Was One

When I was one, I was so small,
(Child holds up one finger with adult help)
I could not speak a word at all. *(Shake head “no”)*
When I was two, I learned to talk.
(Child holds up two fingers with adult help)
I learned to sing, I learned to walk. *(Point to mouth and feet)*
When I was three, I grew and grew.
(Child holds up three fingers with adult help)
I’ll soon be four and so will you!
(Child holds up four fingers with adult help)

Counting Rhyme

(Act out motions as given)
When I say one, I pretend to run.
When I say two, I touch my shoe.
When I say three, I pat my knee.
When I say four, I tap the floor.
When I say five, I pretend to dive.
Then I sit down by a friend.
My counting game comes to an end.
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Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. *(Suit motions to words)*
I think it’s time, we gotta go.
Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.
Wave your tongue and wave your nose.
Wave your knees. Wave your lips.
Blow a kiss, with fingertips.
Wave your ears. Wave your hair.
Wave your belly and derriere.
Wave your chin. Wave your eye.
Wave your hand and say “goodbye.”
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