

Number Rhymes and Counting Songs

Things to consider when selecting number and counting rhymes:

- Make sure you include rhymes that
 - Count forwards
 - Count backwards
 - The concept of zero e.g. *no* or *none* (Five little ducks went swimming one day)
- Support counting songs with actions, objects and images to reinforce the link between each number word and its numeral.
- Develop number rhyme packs containing puppets or other representations, together with a copy of the rhyme, so that children can share their favourite counting songs at home.
- Children's home culture may also nurture their own favourite rhymes and songs in children's home languages should also be provided.

Rhymes to count forwards:

Let's count forwards

Let's count forwards

Let's count forwards

You count too

You count too!

1,2,3,4,5 (*Continue to 10*)

1,2,3,4,5

Do it again

Do it again

5 Different Speckled Frogs (Counting forwards)

One lovely, speckled log,

Sat in the midday sun,

Waiting for three big slimy frogs... 1,2,3...

They jumped up from the pool,

Where they'd been nice and cool and then they rested in the sun,

Gloop, Gloop!

One more, big slimy frog,

Jumped up onto the log,

Joining his brothers, 1,2, 3.. now 4,

He jumped up from the pool,

Where he'd been nice and cool and then he rested in the sun,

Gloop, Gloop!

(Can continue to 5 or 10)

Adapted by Shonette Bason-Wood

One Little Duck went Swimming One Day! (Counting forwards)

One little duck went swimming one day,

He wanted to find some friends to play.

Mother duck said 'Come back, come back'

And two little ducks came swimming back!

(Repeat up to 5 or 10 little ducks)

Adapted by Shonette Bason-Wood

No Currant Buns in a Baker's Shop (Counting forwards)

No currant buns in the baker's shop!
They had all been sold and taken away!
Along came a baker with some dough one day,
Cooked up a bun and put it on display.
Yay!
One currant bun in the baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top,
Along came the baker with some dough one day,
Cooked up another one and put it on display.
How many now?
Two currant buns in the baker's shop ...
Three currant buns ...
Four currant buns
Five currant buns in the baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top,
Along came the baker after a very long day,
Took the currant buns and gave them all away!

One Little Man in a Flying Saucer (Counting forwards)

One little man in a flying saucer flew round the world one day.
He looked left and right, but his saucer was too light
And a meteor cloud blew him away.
How can he stay?
Two little men in a flying saucer flew round the world one day.
They looked left and right but their saucer was too light
And shooting star blew them away!
How can they stay?
Three little men in a flying saucer flew round the world one day.
They looked left and right but their saucer was too light
And the man in the moon blew them away!
How can they stay?
Four little men in a flying saucer flew round the world one day.
They looked left and right but their saucer was too light
And a rocket from Neptune blew them away!
How can they stay?
Five little men in flying saucer flew round the world one day.
They looked left and right, and their saucer was very bright,
So they flew to the milky way!!

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.

One Potato

One potato, two potato, three potato, four.
I made a batch of hot potatoes (stir as in a big pot)
and dropped them on the floor! (put hands on face in surprise)
Five potato, six potato, seven potato, eight.
I stomped them into mashed potatoes (stomp feet)
and plopped them on a plate! (pretend to plop potatoes on a plate)
Nine potato, ten potato. I can't believe my eyes! (cover and uncover eyes)
The children ate the mashed potatoes.
Now they want French fries! (march and swing arms while counting...)
How many fries? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (jump up and reach over head to sky on 10)
Again? (Let's do it faster!)

Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive, where are the bees? (clench fist)
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you will see them come out of the hive. (Bring out fingers quickly one by one.)
One, two, three, four, five.

Rhymes to count backwards

5 Little Speckled Frogs

5 Current Buns

5 Little Ducks

5 Little Men

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 were zero!

Five Little Snowmen

Five little snowmen standing, round my door,
This one melted and then there were four.
Four little snowmen beneath a green pine tree,
This one melted and then there were three.
Three little snowmen with caps and mittens blue,
This one melted and then there were two.
Two little snowmen standing in the sun,
This one melted and then there was one.
One little snowman started to run,
But he melted away and then there was none!

Five Little Ladybirds

Five little Ladybirds climbing up a door,

One Flew away then there were four.
Four Little ladybirds sitting on a tree,
One flew away then there were three.
Three little ladybirds landed on a shoe,
One flew away and then there were two.
Two little ladybirds looking for some fun,
One flew away and then there was one.
One little ladybird sitting in the sun,
She flew away and then there were none.

Five Little Seashells

Five little seashells, lying on the shore.
Swish went the waves, then there were...four.
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. I took it home!

Five Big Ice-creams

Five big ice-creams, with sprinkles on the top,
Five big ice-creams, with sprinkles on the top,
And if teddy takes one, and gobbles it all up,
There'll be (how many) ice-creams, standing in the shop?
Four big ice-creams
Three big ice-creams
Two big ice-creams
One big ice-cream, with sprinkles on the top,
One big ice-cream, with sprinkles on the top,
And if teddy takes one, and gobbles it all up,
There'll be no ice-creams, standing in the shop!

Five Little Leaves

Five little leaves so bright and gay,
Were dancing about on a tree one day,
The wind came blowing through the town,
Ooooooo.....Ooooooooooo
One little leaf came tumbling down.
Four little leaves so bright and gay....
Three little leaves so bright and gay....
Two little leaves so bright and gay....
One little leaf so bright and gay
Was dancing about on a tree one day,
The wind came blowing through the town,
Ooooooo.....Ooooooooooo
The last little leaf came tumbling down.