

## Handout 2: Math-Related Children's Books, Songs, and Finger Plays for Preschoolers

### Books

For more suggestions, see “Now Read This! Math and Literacy—The Perfect Pair” in the August 2008 issue of *TYC* or “Math-Related Children's Books” at [www.tyc.naeyc.org/articles](http://www.tyc.naeyc.org/articles).

*12 Ways to Get to 11*, by Eve Merriam. Illus. by Bernie Karlin. 1993. New York: Simon & Schuster. Ages Birth–4.

*100th Day Worries*, by Margery Cuyler. Illus. by Arthur Howard. 2000. New York: Simon & Schuster. Ages 4–8.

*A Cache of Jewels and Other Collective Nouns*, by Ruth Heller. 1998. New York: Putnam & Grosset. Ages 4–8.

*Alef is One: A Hebrew Alphabet and Counting Book*, by Katherine Janus Kahn. 1989. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben. Ages 4–8.

*Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*, by Judith Viorst. Illus. by Ray Cruz. 1988. New York: Aladdin Books. Ages 4–8.

*Anno's Counting Book*, by Mitsumasa Anno. 1977. New York: Crowell. Ages 4–8.

*Big Fat Hen*, by Keith Baker. 1994. San Diego: Harcourt Brace. Ages 4–8.

*Big Red Barn*, by Margaret Wise Brown. Illus. by Felicia Bond. 2002. New York: Rayo. Ages 4–8.

*Busy Bugs: A Book About Patterns*, by Jayne Harvey. Illus. by Bernard Adnet. 2003. New York: Grosset & Dunlap. Ages 4–8.

*Close, Closer, Closest*, by Shelley Rotner and Richard Olivo. 1997. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Ages 4–8.

*Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On*, by Lois Ehlert. 2001. New York: Red Wagon Books. Ages 4–8.

*Five Creatures*, by Emily Jenkins. Illus. by Tomek Bogacki. 2001. New York: Frances Foster Books. Ages 4–8.

*The Greedy Triangle*, by Marilyn Burns. Illus. by Gordon Silveria. 1994. New York: Scholastic. Ages 4–8.

*Let's Count*, by Tana Hoban. 1999. New York: Greenwillow. Ages Birth–4.

*Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes: Patterns in Nature*, by Stephen R. Swinburne. 2002. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press. Ages 4–8.

*Moja Means One*, by Muriel Feelings. Illus. by Tom Feelings. 1971. New York: Dial Press. Ages 4–8.

*Nature's Paintbrush: The Colors and Patterns Around You*, by Susan Stockdale. 1999. New York: Simon & Schuster. Ages 4–8.

*Nine O'Clock Lullaby*, by Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Frané Lessac. 1993. New York: HarperTrophy. Ages 4–8.

*One Duck Stuck*, by Phyllis Root. Illus. by Jane Chapman. 1998. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick. Ages Birth–4.

*One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale*, by Demi. 1997. New York: Scholastic. Ages 4–8.

*One Woolly Wombat*, by Rod Trinca. Illus. by Kerry Argent. 1987. Brooklyn, NY: Kane/Miller. Ages 4–8.

*Only One*, by Marc Harshman. Illus. by Barbara Garrison. 1993. New York: Cobblehill Books/Dutton. Ages 4–8.

*Pattern Bugs*, by Trudy Harris. Illus. by Anne Canevari Green. 2001. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press. Ages 4–8.

*Sea Squares*, by Joy N. Hulme. Illus. by Carol Schwartz. 1991. New York: Hyperion. Ages 4–8.

*So Many Circles, So Many Squares*, by Tana Hoban. 1998. New York: Greenwillow. Ages 4–8.

*Squarehead*, by Harriet Ziefert. Illus. by Todd McKie. 2001. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Ages 4–8.

*Ten Black Dots*, Rev. ed., by Donald Crews. 1995. New York: HarperTrophy. Ages 4–8.

*Ten Dogs in the Window: A Countdown Book*, by Claire Masurel. Illus. by Pamela Papparone. 1997. New York: North-South Books. Ages 4–8.

*Ten Go Tango*, by Arthur Dorros. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. 2000. New York: HarperCollins. Ages Birth–4.

*Twizzlers: Shapes and Patterns*, by Jerry Palotta. Illus. by Rob Bolster. 2002. New York: Scholastic. Ages 4–8.

*What Do You Want?* by Lars Klinting. Trans. by Maria Lundin. 2006. Toronto, Ontario, Can: Groundwood Books. Ages 4–8.

*When a Line Bends . . . A Shape Begins*, by Rhonda Gowler Greene. Illus. by James Kaczman. 1997. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Ages 4–8.

*When Sheep Cannot Sleep: The Counting Book*, by Satoshi Kitamura. 1986. London: A & C Black. Ages 4–8.

*The Willow Pattern Story*, by Allan Drummond. 1992. New York: North-South Books. Ages 4–8.

## Songs

All songs listed below can be found at [www.songsforteaching.com](http://www.songsforteaching.com).

### Early Number Concepts

“Alligator Greater Than / Less Than,” by Jennifer Fixman, on *We Love Math with Miss Jenny*

“The Backyard Zoo,” by Kevin Schaffer, on *Skip-Counting Pattern Songs*

“Chicken Count,” by Jack Hartmann, on *Movin’ 2 Math*

“The Counting Creatures,” by Ron Brown, on *The Learning Ride: Standards, Skills, and Concepts for Grades K-1*

“Five Little Snowmen,” by Stephanie Burton, on *Math Magic for Ages 3-7*

“Mama Duck,” by Peter and Ellen Allard, on *Sing It! Stamp It! Sway It! Volume 3*

“The Number March,” by Hap Palmer, on *Hap Palmer’s Learning Basic Skills Through Music: Volume 1*

### Shapes

“Circles Go ‘Round and ‘Round,” by Jennifer Fixman, on *We Love Math with Miss Jenny*

“Crazy Polygon Shapes,” by Zach Burba, on *ABC’s and Much More*

“Drawing Shapes,” by Maryann “Mar” Harman, on *Math with Mar*

“Shape Train,” by Ron Brown, on *Beginning Concepts I & II*

### Measurement

“Is It Shorter, Colder, Lighter?” by Zach Burba, on *It All Adds Up*

“The Measurement Song,” by Mar Harman, on *Math with Mar Patterns*

### Patterns

“It’s Pattern Time,” by Jennifer Fixman, on *We Love Math with Miss Jenny*

“The Pattern Shout-Out,” by David Burba, on *It All Adds Up*

## Finger Plays

### “Two Little Blackbirds”

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill *(place both hands behind your back with pointer fingers out)*

One named Jack *(bring one hand out from behind your back)*

One named Jill *(bring other hand out from behind your back)*

Fly away Jack *(make one finger/hand “flutter” to behind your back)*

Fly away Jill *(repeat with second finger/hand)*

Come back Jack *(bring one finger/hand back out)*

Come back Jill *(repeat with second finger/hand)*

### “This Old Man”

This old man, he played one *(hold up one finger)*

He played knick-knack on my thumb *(tap thumbs together)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played two *(hold up two fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my shoe *(tap shoe)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played three *(hold up three fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my knee *(tap knee)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played four *(hold up four fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my door *(tap an imaginary door)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played five *(hold up five fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my hive *(wiggle fingers for flying bees)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played six *(hold up six fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my sticks *(tap pointer fingers)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played seven *(hold up seven fingers)*

He played knick-knack up in heaven *(point up to the sky)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

This old man, he played eight *(hold up eight fingers)*

He played knick-knack on my gate *(tap imaginary gate)*

With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone *(clap hands, throw an imaginary bone)*

This old man came rolling home. *(roll hands over each other)*

## Picturing Good Practice. You Can Count on Math

This old man, he played nine (*hold up nine fingers*)  
 He played knick-knack on my spine (*tap back*)  
 With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone (*clap hands, throw an imaginary bone*)  
 This old man came rolling home. (*roll hands over each other*)

This old man, he played ten (*hold up ten fingers*)  
 He played knick-knack once again (*clap hands*)  
 With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone (*clap hands, throw an imaginary bone*)  
 This old man came rolling home. (*roll hands over each other*)

### “One Little, Two Little, Three Little Snowflakes”

One little, two little, three little snowflakes... (*hold up one, two, and three fingers*)  
 Four little, five little, six little snowflakes... (*hold up four, five, and six fingers*)  
 Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes... (*hold up seven, eight, and nine fingers*)  
 Ten little snowflakes flutter down. (*hold up ten fingers above your head and flutter them down*)

One little, two little, three little Valentines... (*hold up one, two, and three fingers*)  
 Four little, five little, six little Valentines... (*hold up four, five, and six fingers*)  
 Seven little, eight little, nine little Valentines... (*hold up seven, eight, and nine fingers*)  
 Ten little Valentines say “I love you.” (*hold up ten fingers above your head and place them on your heart*)

One big, two big, three big Mommys... (*hold up one, two, and three fingers*)  
 Four big, five big, six big Mommys... (*hold up four, five, and six fingers*)  
 Seven big, eight big, nine big Mommys... (*hold up seven, eight, and nine fingers*)  
 Ten big Mommys say “I love you.” (*hold up ten fingers above your head and place them on your heart*)

### “Five Little Monkeys”

Five little monkeys swinging in the tree (*hold hand up with five fingers and “swing” it back and forth*)  
 Teasing Mr. Alligator,  
 “Can’t catch me.” (*point finger back and forth*)  
 Along came Mr. Alligator  
 Quiet as can be... (*put hands together and move in a snakelike motion*)  
 And snapped that monkey right out of that tree. (*clap hands like an alligator’s mouth*)

(Repeat motions and words for...)

Four little monkeys...  
 Three little monkeys...  
 Two little monkeys...  
 One little monkey...

### “If I Want to Count . . .

If I want to count in Italian  
 I can do that easily  
 Uno, due, tre, quarto (*hold up one, two, three, and four fingers*)  
 Easy for you and me (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)  
 Easy for you and me. (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

## Picturing Good Practice. You Can Count on Math

If I want to count in Hindi

I can do that easily

Ache, doe, teen, chaar (*hold up one, two, three, and four fingers*)

Easy for you and me (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

Easy for you and me. (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

If I want to count in Japanese

I can do that easily

Ichy, knee, san, shi (*hold up one, two, three, and four fingers*)

Easy for you and me (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

Easy for you and me. (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

If I want to count in Swahili

I can do that easily

Mojah, wili, tatu, nne (*hold up one, two, three, and four fingers*)

Easy for you and me (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

Easy for you and me. (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

If I want to count in English

I can do that easily

One, two, three, four (*hold up one, two, three, and four fingers*)

Easy for you and me (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)

Easy for you and me. (*point to someone else and point to yourself*)