Picturing Good Practice. You Can Count on Math

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.


Songs

All songs listed below can be found at 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*
“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**

“Alligator Greater Than / Less Than,” 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**

“Alligator Greater Than / Less Than,” by Jennifer Fixman, on *We Love Math with Miss Jenny*
“The Measurement Song,” by Mar Harman, on *Math with Mar Patterns*

**Patterns**

“Alligator Greater Than / Less Than,” 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)
This old man, he played nine
He played knick-knack on my spine
With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played ten
He played knick-knack once again
With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone
This old man came rolling home.

“One Little, Two Little, Three Little Snowflakes”

One little, two little, three little snowflakes...
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes...
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes...
Ten little snowflakes flutter down.

One little, two little, three little Valentines...
Four little, five little, six little Valentines...
Seven little, eight little, nine little Valentines...
Ten little Valentines say “I love you.”

“One Big, Two Big, Three Big Mommys”

One big, two big, three big Mommys...
Four big, five big, six big Mommys...
Seven big, eight big, nine big Mommys...
Ten big Mommys say “I love you.”

“Five Little Monkeys”

Five little monkeys swinging in the tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator,
“Can’t catch me.”
Along came Mr. Alligator
Quiet as can be...
And snapped that monkey right out of that tree.

“If I Want to Count . . .”

If I want to count in Italian
I can do that easily
Uno, due, tre, quarto
Easy for you and me
Easy for you and me.
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)