

**Play is how babies learn and grow.
Children learn best when new ideas are presented
in fun, meaningful ways.**

READ

Every time you play, sing or read to babies and toddlers they are learning about language. Counting books are a great way to help little ones learn about numbers.

By giving children opportunities to:

- See how numbers look
- Listen to counting
- Hear numbers and counting in meaningful concepts

You are helping them gain the foundations of early numeracy.

BEFORE READING:

You may want to source some other Grug books. There are lots in the series.

You can find our favourites on our website.

DURING READING:

Pointing to each object as you count it is a really important concept for children to see.

You can gently guide babies fingers to point to the objects while you count.

Older toddlers may be able to point to each object themselves and join in the counting.

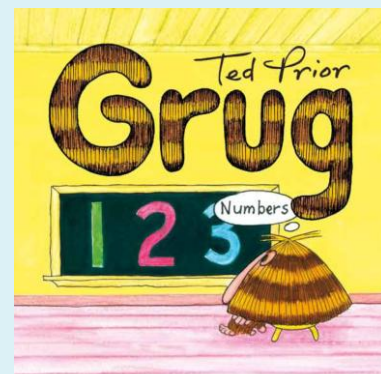
Talk about how each number is written and the shape it is made. You can help little ones to trace over the numeral with their finger.

AFTER READING:

Provide lots of other simple number books for little ones to explore.

It is easy to make your own:

- Use photos of familiar objects
- Use photos of the children (one child for the 1 page, two children for the 2 page etc...)
- Cut out pictures from magazines.
- Your books don't need words, just one large number to match the number of pictures on each page.



This book was
featured in March
2012 as part of our
1 2 3
Theme.

Notes

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www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au Don't forget to visit our website!

There are lots of FREE things to explore including recommended books, e-books, fun things to make and do, giveaways and so much more.

SING

Lots of Nursery Rhymes and songs include numbers and early mathematical concepts. Music and songs appeal to most little children so singing together is a fun way to help them learn new words and concepts.

Try some of the following:

- *1 2 3 4 5 Once I Caught A Fish Alive*
- *Round and Round the Garden*
- *Baa Baa Black Sheep*

You can find some of our favourite Nursery Rhymes available as free printables here:

<http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/category/resource-types/nursery-rhymes>

PLAY

Playing with numbers with babies can be as easy as:

- Counting their toes while you are changing their nappy or their fingers while you are washing their hands.
- Count how long it takes to get them dressed.
- Count each spoonful of food they eat.

Simple activities like this expose children to numbers in meaningful ways.

As babies get older you can incorporate counting into your play times.

- Count as you push them on the swing.
- Can they jump like a frog? Count each jump.
- Roll a ball to each other and count each roll.

You will be surprised at how many things you can count during your day.

CREATE

Make a number frieze for your little ones bedroom.

- Use photos of the people in your family or special friends.
- Cut around the person in each photo.
- Stick one person onto the 1 page, 2 people onto the 2 page etc...

Counting Books We Recommend

- 1 2 3, Maisy* by Lucy Cousins
- One Woolly Wombat* by Kerry Argent
- Five Little Ducks* by Dan Yaccarino
- Spot Can Count* by Eric Hill

Useful websites:

For printable activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

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