Ten Blue Wrens And What A Lot Of Wattle!
Elizabeth Honey

Key Message for Parents

Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics

- Many early experiences allow children to explore mathematical concepts, such as cooking, jigsaw houses, building with blocks and sand and water play.
- Providing children with age appropriate activities can help them develop mathematical concepts such as counting, sorting, ordering, classifying, measurement, shapes and colours.
- Counting books that illustrate interesting objects matched with a bold number are perfect for toddlers.

EYLF Learning Outcomes

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern symbols work.
- We can promote this by:
  - Sharing with children the number of objects on a page and matching to the numeral.
  - Providing children with a range of everyday materials that they can use to create patterns and to sort, categorise, order and compare.

Welcome

- Welcome everybody with a song and share guidelines for Story Time

Book Introduction

- Engage the children by showing them something, related to the book, that they can count, for example,
  - Plastic food in a picnic basket
  - A bunch of flowers
  - A collection of gum leaves
- Have the numbers 1-10 written on individual cards, help the children match the numeral to the number that they have counted.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
During Reading

- This book has lots of lovely interesting words in it. Spend time looking at and discussing the pictures and explaining unfamiliar words to the children. Giving children the opportunity to share their experiences, for example, asking them “Have you ever seen fireworks?” etc will enhance both their comprehension and vocabulary.

After Reading

- Practice counting to ten together. Depending on the age of the children you could teach them how to count to ten in another language. Are their families in your group that speak another language? Invite them to help you.
- Share with families some other number books that you have available to borrow. For 2 and 3 year olds we recommend:
  - Spot Can Count by Eric Hill
  - The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
  - An Australian 1 2 3 of Animals by Bronwyn Bancroft
  - Play School Numbers by ABC Books
  - One Wooly Wombat by Kerry Argent
  - Let’s Count Goats by Mem Fox
  - The Waterhole by Graeme Base
- More fantastic number books can be found on our website

Songs and Rhymes

There is a reason that so many nursery rhymes include numbers. Music appeals to most children so singing is a fun way to help them learn new words and concepts. Many of these songs include actions or children acting out the words which is a very powerful way for young children to learn.

Number rhymes include:

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

1 2 Buckle My Shoe
This Little Piggy
Hickory Dickory Dock

Activity Time

The illustrations in this book can be the starting point for lots of fun activities with children like:

- Create your own dot paintings using cotton buds instead of paint brushes
- Go on a treasure hunt for gum leaves and other natural objects. Use your treasures to create interesting patterns and pictures.
- Make your own number book

Collate a list with the children and families of their ten favourite picture books. Or ask families to prepare their own lists. Copy and share their lists as a great way of introducing new books to each other.

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