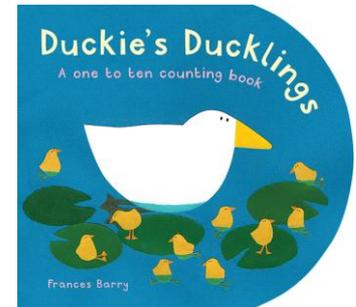


## Duckie's Ducklings By Frances Barry

Theme: Everyday Numeracy (Mar 2014)



It's time for a swim, but Duckie can't find her ducklings anywhere. On her journey to the lake to swim, there are many things to count in the natural environment. Turn the shaped pages and count ten little ducklings along the way.

### Key Message for Parents:

Children Are Born Ready To Use And Learn Mathematics:

- Mathematics in childhood includes numbers, counting, making patterns, measuring, shapes and colours
- Regularly exposing young children to mathematical language helps them build up their vocabulary base to use once they learn to talk
- Number rhymes and number songs with actions are a powerful way for children to learn mathematics

### Learning Outcome 4: Children Are Confident And Involved Learners

- Children create and use representation to organize, record and communicate mathematical ideas
- Children use mathematical thinking and vocabulary in their daily activities and play
- Children use a variety of thinking strategies to engage with situations and solve problems.

### Welcome

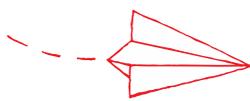
Ask parents/carers to write nametags for themselves and their children. Welcome everyone! Introduce yourself and remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

#### Sing - Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

#### Good Morning

*Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning everybody  
And welcome to you!*



## Rhyme

Five little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” but only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” but only three little ducks came back.

Three little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” but only two little ducks came back.

Two little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” but only one little duck came back.

One little duck went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” but none of the five little ducks came back.

So Mother duck went out one day, over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck said “quack, quack, quack, quack” and all of the five little ducks came back.

Now let's get ready to read! Remind children about how good listeners listen to a story: sitting still, hands in your laps, lips still, ears open to listen and eyes on the book! Well done!

## Before reading

Today we will read a story called “Duckie’s Ducklings” which is written and illustrated by Frances Barry. Let’s have a look at the ducks on the cover. There is a mother duck called Duckie and there are some baby ducks called ducklings. Can you count the ducklings with me? Point to each duckling and count together. Can you name some things ducks like to do? Let’s find out what these ducks do together.

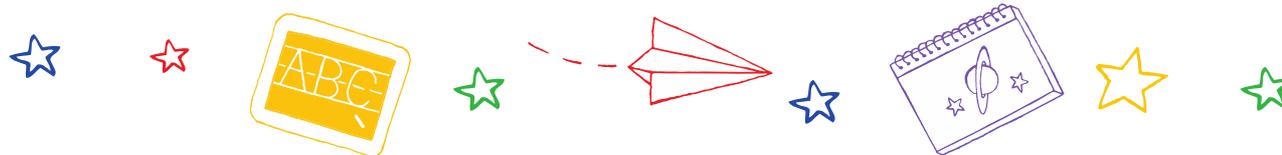
## During reading

Each page of the book has many things to look at. The shape of each page is different. Another duckling appears on the left hand side as you turn each page, until you see ten ducklings. You can count the ducklings as you go and look at the shapes of the pages. Each page also has parts of the natural environment you can look at. You can look at and name the things on each page: apples, flowerpots, cabbages, tomatoes, snails, butterflies....etc.

## After reading

You can go back through the story and play detectives on each page. You can explore numerical and directional language with the child. Can you count the number of flowers on the first page? What is under the flowerpot next to the shed on the second page? How many snails are next to the apples? How many butterflies are up in the sky on the fourth page? How many ladybirds are on the tomatoes?

Which page is your favourite page? Why do you like that page the most?



## Songs and Rhymes

Here are other number songs and rhymes that you could sing. Use your fingers to count the numbers and use actions with your body for the songs.

- Five little monkeys
- One, two, three, four five, once I caught a fish alive
- Ten in the bed
- Ten fat sausages
- Ten little Indians
- This old man

## Activity Time

Playing with numbers

You will need

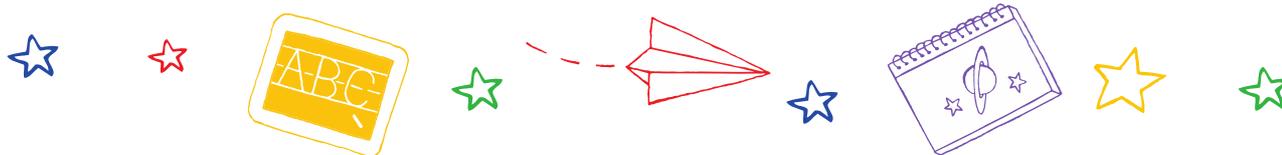
- some containers, or an egg carton or empty ice cube tray
- a handful of things that are the same: some pebbles, some buttons, some lego blocks, some cars.

Children can have free play with the containers and the objects. They may put things into the containers and take them out again. They may count them. They may make patterns with them. They may make towers with them. Allow the children to investigate the objects in any way that they choose. In this activity, we encourage the development of mathematical vocabulary by talking about and modeling the language of mathematics. We can also ask them questions to help expand their thinking and talking about mathematics. For example “How many blocks are in your tower?” and “Can you put one more car in the line? Let’s count them now”.

If children are ready to investigate further, you can lead a conversation about one to one correspondence. To do this, you can place one object in one container, then another object in another container, and so on. Then together you can count the total number of objects up to ten.

This picture (right) shows an example of a task involving one to one correspondence. We can place one object in each container and we can count them up to ten. You can also take one away and then count them. Or we can count backwards from ten down to one.





## Further Learning Time ideas

### Ladybird Maths

- Make a ladybird by cutting out the template
- Add some googly eyes or draw some
- Cut out some circles
- Choose a number of dots for your ladybird and stick them on
- You can write the number of dots in your ladybird
- Display the ladybirds

Have a talk about the ladybirds, exploring mathematical language and problem solving. How many dots does your ladybird have? If I add one more dot, how many dots will my ladybird have? Which ladybird has the most dots?

Based on the activity "Make and Count Ladybugs" here:

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2010/03/make-and-count-ladybugs.html>

## Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of relevant books that parents might want to borrow. The Little Big Book Club recommends the following books to support further learning:

- Bush Bash by Sally Morgan and Ambelin Kwaymullina
- One Woolly Wombat by Kerry Argent
- Kip by Christina Booth

## Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than 'library friends' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) **or** your preferred choice.

### Goodbye song

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (**or**) to our friend.....)