

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read to young children they are learning about language.

By sharing this book and play activities with them they will have the opportunity to:

- Develop their number vocabulary through stories, songs and play.
- Become aware of numbers through everyday experiences.
- Be exposed to numbers and counting in everyday situations.

We hope these activities will provide you with a starting point for fun play with young children.

Engaging with Language and Literacy



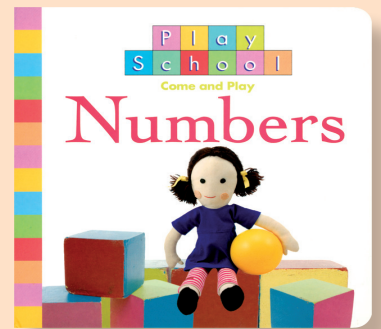
Children learn about language through positive interactions. Singing, rhyming and finger plays are fun ways for children to engage with language.

When you read the story you may want to:

- Sing some rhymes that suit the pictures on the page.

Ask the children if they know a good song to match the pictures or try:

- *A Sailor Went To Sea, Sea, Sea*
- *I've Got A Car*
- *Five Little Ducks*
- *The Lady With The Alligator Purse*
- *Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary*
- *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*
- Make up actions with the children to suit the words on each page, eg, pretend to hold a steering wheel for the car page, pretend to knock on the door for the house page etc...
- Point to the numbers and talk about them, eg, "Look, that is a number 2 and you are 2!"
- Encourage the children to join in with the story by missing out the rhyming word and encourage them to say it for you.
- Count the objects on each page and match it to the number.



Play School - Come and Play Numbers

by ABC Books

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Notes

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- Use props to tell the story. Make a collection of toys or pictures that are featured in the book, or make your own! Have the children help you find the prop for each page.

Engaging with Numbers and Numeracy



Here are some fun ways for children to explore what numbers look like.

You will need a set of numerals 1-10 written on card for the children to copy and large outlines of the numbers for the children to work directly onto.

- Write in wet sand
- Write on a whiteboard
- Write with chalk
- Model them out of play dough or clay
- Write in shaving cream
- Stamp thumbprints
- Paint with water on outside surfaces
- Make with play dough cutters
- Place objects on an outline, eg, shells, seeds, leaves or buttons

Number Games

- Some older children may enjoy simple games that use numbers or counting.
- Try Dominoes, number puzzles, matching games, Snakes and Ladders, Bingo and Hopscotch.
- They will also enjoy opportunities for free play with dice, dominoes and playing cards.

Free play gives children the chance to experiment, develop their understandings and learn from each other in a non threatening situation.

Observing children’s free play will enable you to learn about their mathematical understandings and decide what experiences to offer them next.

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Enjoying Imaginative Play

Children need many opportunities to hear and practice counting.

Touching items as you count them helps children understand that numbers represent quantities. This is called one-to-one-correspondence and is an important mathematical skill.



There are many opportunities to explore one-to-one correspondence of numbers during imaginative play:

Water Play

- Add 5 plastic frogs and 5 lily pads to the water play.
- Encourage the children to place one frog on each pad and count them.
- Lily pads can be made out of ice cream or margarine lids.
- While you are playing you could ask the children:
 - If I put one more frog on this lily pad, how many will I have?
 - You have 2 lily pads and each has two frogs, how many frogs is that?
 - How many frogs will be left if one hops into the water?

Home Corner

- Include 12 plastic eggs and an egg carton in the home corner or the same number of eggs as egg cups.
- Some questions you could ask the children are:
 - How many more eggs do you need to fill your egg carton / egg cups?
 - If I give you two more eggs how many will you have?

Cars

- Use masking tape to divide the top of a bench into parking spaces.
- Provide the same number of cars as parking spaces.
- Write a number on each car park and the same numbers on each car. Encourage the children to put the car in the parking space with the same number.

- Discuss with the children:
 - Are there enough parking spaces for each car?
 - How many more cars are needed to fill up the carpark?
 - How can we divide the cars so we all have the same number?

Painting

- Draw lines on large sheets of butcher's paper so it is divided into large boxes.
- Some children will draw or paint one object in each box.
- Other children may use the boxes to make patterns or paint sequences.
- This activity will give you the opportunity to observe the children's mathematical thinking.

Exploring Our World



Farm Animals

- Spend some time exploring the illustrations with the children.

Talk about the setting and the characters.

Do the children notice that all the animals are farm animals?

Provide some play experiences for the children that focus on farm animals.

You could try:

- Toy farm animals
- Farm animal puppets (make your own with a picture and a pop stick)
- Making farm animals out of play dough
- Turn the home corner into a farm
- Sing songs with the children about farms and farm animals;
 - *Old MacDonald Had A Farm*
 - *Baa Baa Black Sheep*
 - *Little Bo Peep*
 - *Higgeldy Piggledy My Black Hen*
 - *The Farmer In The Dell*

Musical Instruments

- Set up a display of musical instruments for the children to observe.

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Also include books and pictures of musical instruments.

Try and include instruments from a variety of cultures.

Visit www.lmrc.sa.edu.au

Here you will find websites that will provide you with information about music from a variety countries and cultures.

- Let the children explore the instruments.

You could discuss:

- How they work
- The sound they make
- What they are made of
- The parts of the instrument

- Encourage the children to draw pictures of the musical instruments.

Providing children with black textas to draw with will encourage the children to focus carefully on the picture they are drawing (rather than the colours they are using).

- Look at the following famous pieces of artwork with the children:

- ‘*The Guitarist*’ by Edouard Manet (1860)
- ‘*Café Singer*’ by Edgar Degas (1878)

Both can be found on Google Images.

Being Creative Through Play

Children develop mathematical skills as they encounter situations that encourage mathematical thinking.



Number Collage

- Provide the children with old magazines, birthday cards, calendars etc... that they can cut numbers out of.
- Stick all the numbers onto a large piece of paper to make a giant number collage.

Useful Box

- Create your own Useful Box just like on Play School!
- Fill it with clean empty boxes, cartons and tins, scraps of wool, ribbon, material, wrapping paper etc...
- Ask parents to send in useful things from home.

- Use your useful box to help you make some of the objects from the story. Display groups of the same objects, count with the children how many are in the group and make a large number to add to the display.
- Visit http://www.abc.net.au/children/play/box_activities.html for more Useful box ideas.

Having Fun with Music and Movement

Children's natural love of music means that it is a great learning aide.



- Sing songs that involve counting down and counting up.
- Choose children to act out the parts of the characters in the song.
 - This will give the children a visual representation of numbers, addition and subtraction, as well as being lots of fun!
 - Replace the English numbers with numbers from another language?
 - Make posters of number rhymes with children's illustrations.
 - Try the following number rhymes:
 - *Three Little Monkeys*
 - *One Grey Elephant*
 - *Five Little Speckled Frogs*
 - *Five Currant Buns*
 - *Five Little Ducks*
 - *Five In The Bed*
 - *One Elephant Went Out To Play*

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Other books to try:

Other Books by Phil Cummings:

- 1 2 3, Maisy* by Lucy Cousins
- Counting* by Steve Parish
- 1 2 3 Playbook: My First* DK Books
- 1 2 3: Touch and Feel* DK Books
- Numbers: Lift the Flap* DK Books
- One Bear At Bedtime* by Mick Inkpen
- Handa's Hen* by Eileen Browne
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- One Woolly Wombat* by Kerry Argent
- Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag
- Over In The Meadow: A Counting Rhyme* by Louise Voce
- Five Little Ducks* by Dan Yaccarino

Songs & Rhymes:

A Sailor Went To Sea Sea Sea

A sailor went to sea sea sea
 To see what he could see see see
 But all that he could see see see
 Was the bottom of the deep blue sea
 sea sea

A sailor went to chop chop chop...

A sailor went to knee knee knee...

A sailor went to foot foo foot...

A sailor went to sea chop knee foot...

I've Got A Car

I've got a car that's made of tin
 Nobody knows what shape it's in
 Got four wheels and a running board
 It's a four door
 It's a Ford

Honk honk

Rattle rattle

Toot

Crash

Beep beep

Make up actions for the words in the chorus

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star
 How I wonder what you are
 Up above the world so high
 Like a diamond in the sky
 Twinkle twinkle little star
 How I wonder what you are

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Mary Mary quite contrary
 How does your garden grow
 With silver bells and cockle shells
 And pretty maids all in a row

Five Little Ducks

Hold up five fingers and move to look like walking.

Five little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away

Open and close hand to look like a beak quacking.

Mother duck said quack, quack, quack,
quack

Hold up four fingers.

But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks...
Three little ducks...
Two little ducks.. .

One little duck went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mother duck said quack, quack, quack,
quack
But none of those five little ducks
came back.

Sad 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.

Five Currant Buns

Five currant buns in a baker's shop
Round and fat with a cherry on the top
Along came (child's name)
With a penny one day
He/she bought a currant bun
And took it away

Four currant buns, etc...

The Lady With The Alligator Purse

Miss Lucy had a baby
His name was Tiny Tim
She put him in the bathtub
To see if he could swim
He drank up all the water
He ate up all the soap
He tried to eat the bathtub
But it wouldn't go down his throat
Miss Lucy called the doctor
Miss Lucy called the nurse
Miss Lucy called the lady with the
alligator purse
"Mumps," said the doctor
"Measles," said the nurse
"Hiccups," said the lady with the
alligator purse

Five In The Bed

There were five in the bed
And the little one said
"Roll over, roll over."
So they all rolled over
And one fell out...

There were four in the bed
Etc...

There was one in the bed
And that one said
"Good night".

Three Little Monkeys

Three little monkeys
Jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Daddy phoned the doctor
The doctor said
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Two little monkeys
Etc

One little doctor
Jumping on the bed
He/she fell off and bumped his/her head
Daddy phoned the monkeys
The monkeys said
"No more doctors jumping on the bed!"

Notes

Notes List any other books, rhymes or activities the children have enjoyed.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

One Grey Elephant

One grey elephant balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
Thought it was such a wonderful stunt
That he called for another elephant.

Two grey elephants...
Three grey elephants...
Four grey elephants...

Five grey elephants balancing
Step by step on a piece of string
All of a sudden the piece of string
broke
And down came all the elephant folk!

One Elephant Went Out To Play

One elephant went out to play
On a spiders web one day
He had such enormous fun
So he called for another elephant to
come.

Two elephants went out...

Three elephants went out...

Four elephants went out...

Five elephants went out...

The web went creak
The web went crack
And all of a sudden
They all ran back