

LEARNING TIME

Ten Little Figs

By Rhian Williams and Nathaniel Eckstrom

Ten little figs are on my tree. I love figs and they're all for me...

Uh-oh there's some cheeky Australian animals who want those juicy, plump figs. With a catchy rhyming rhythm, the boy and his dog watch the animals steal the figs one by one. Will there be any left for him to eat? A fun story set in the outdoors with lots of counting, numbers and animals.



Key Message for Parents | Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics

Using numbers and counting in everyday activities a great way to expose young children to mathematical language.

Some ways to include maths into your day are;

- Singing songs that involve counting up and down. *Five little ducks* and *1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive* are perfect to give children a visual representation of number, addition and subtraction.
- Encourage children to count with/on their fingers.
- Read books containing numbers and counting. Count things in the illustrations. For example, "Look at all the flowers. I wonder how many there are? Let's count together."

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Educators can support children become effective communicators by;

- Providing opportunities for engagement with a wide range of texts. Have lots of books within a child's reach and encourage spending time reading.
- Talk about what's happening in the illustrations of a picture book. Ask children what they can see. Make up your own story based on the pictures. Count things in the illustrations.
- Listen to children's ideas and respond positively as this validates and recognises a child's achievements.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

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!

Song

Start your session off with a simple counting song. Children will love to make their sausages sizzle and clap loudly.



Five fat sausages

Five fat sausages sizzling in a pan (hold up 5 fingers)

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle and one went bang (rub hands together then clap hands on loud BANG!)

Four fat sausages sizzling in a pan (hold up 4 fingers)

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle and one went bang

Three fat sausages sizzling in a pan (hold up 3 fingers)

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle and one went bang

Two fat sausages sizzling in a pan (hold up 2 fingers)

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle and one went bang

One fat sausage sizzling in a pan (hold up 1 finger)

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle and it went bang!

Before Reading

Here's a suggested script you could use before you read the story.

"We are going to read a story called Ten Little Figs. Does anyone know what a fig is? No? Let's see if we can work it out by looking at the cover of the book. I can see some flowers, a dog and a little boy on a swing. I can also see a big tree with some round things growing on the branches. Are these the figs? Yes, they are. What colour are the figs? Purple, yes they are purple. Figs are a fruit that grow on a big tree and are purple. Has anyone eaten a fig before? Did you like it? I wonder if they are juicy or crunchy, sweet or sour?"

You could print out pictures of a fig to show, or even better, bring in a real fig.

During Reading

On first reading, read the whole story without pausing and discussing. This helps children understand the flow of the story. On second reading there are numerous ways to engage children in the text.

1. Point out the numbers in the text.
2. Get the children to hold up 10 fingers at the start of the story. As each fig is taken children put down a finger.
3. Can the children guess who is climbing out the tree? How can they tell? The shadow is a big clue.
4. Look at the last page with the numbers and the fig/animal pictures. Say the number and count the figs. Say what animal took the fig.

After Reading

Make a list of all the animals who stole the figs. Talk about each one as there may be an animal the children haven't seen or heard of before.

Explore the illustrations and discover the clever clue placement on each page of what the next animal will be.

Which animal is a favourite?

Talk about how all the animals are Australian. Are there any other Australian animals the children can name?

Count to ten, getting the children to hold up a finger for each number. Count down from 10 to 1. This is a good lead into to the next song.

Song

Ten Little Figs

One little, two little three little figs

Four little, five little, six little figs

Seven little eight little, nine little figs

10 little figs hanging on the tree

Clap the rhythm of the song on
knees or your lap

Sing the song in reverse - counting
down from 10 to 1

Extension Ideas

- The figs grow on a sandpaper fig tree with rough leaves. If you have access to a fig tree bring in some leaves for children to feel. Alternatively have some sandpaper with various grits for the children to feel.
- Play a simple counting activity with pom poms, cupcake liners and tongs.
<https://laughingkidslearn.com/simple-counting-activity-for-children/>



STEM Focus

Mathematics is all around us. Many everyday activities allow children to explore mathematical concepts and have fun with numbers, shapes and sorting. Experiences like getting dressed, eating and going to the park, provide opportunities to talk about numbers and counting. There are so many things you can count - count fingers and toes, count the peas on your plate, collect 5 toys from around the house, count how many trees at the park, go for a walk and look at the numbers on letterboxes.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Where are the five frogs Spot?** by *Eric Hill*
- **How many legs?** by Kes Gray and Jim Field
- **Ten little owls** by *Renee Trembl*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' 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

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.....)!