

10 Minutes Till Bedtime by Peggy Rathmann

AGE LEVEL 2–4 years

About the Story

10 Minutes Till Bedtime is a counting book about a boy who has 10 minutes to get ready for bed. A team of hamsters arrives to help the boy put away his toys, put on his pajamas, brush his teeth, and read a bedtime story. The story and art are hilarious, so your child will enjoy learning to count backward.



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Words to Learn

NUMBER WORDS AND SYMBOLS

ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one;
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

OTHER WORDS

minutes, aboard

About the Math

The story begins at 10 minutes and counts backward to bedtime. When reading this counting book, your child can learn:

- How to count both forward (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) and backward (10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1).
- How to read the numerals: We read 1 as “one,” 2 as “two,” 3 as “three,” etc.
- How long a minute lasts and how many minutes it takes to get ready for bed.



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Math Talk During Reading

PRACTICE COUNTING BACKWARD AND GUESSING WHAT NUMBER COMES NEXT

So far, 10, 9, 8, 7 minutes have passed. What number do you think we will see next?

TALK ABOUT TIME

What can you do in one minute?

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR CHILD’S BEDTIME ROUTINES

How do you get ready for bed? Is that the same or different than the boy?

AFTER READING THE STORY, PRACTICE COUNTING BACKWARD FROM DIFFERENT NUMBERS

Let’s count backward starting from 8...
Now try to count backward from 13...

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

AFTER READING THE STORY, TIME HOW LONG DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES LAST

Let’s time how many minutes it takes you to get ready for bed, or how long it takes you to eat breakfast.

Anno's Counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno

AGE LEVEL 2–4 years

About the Story

This picture book beautifully illustrates a small town throughout the changing seasons. Each two-page spread shows a number of everyday objects, from one to 12, for your child to find. There are many different groups of objects on each page that show the target number, such as seven cows, seven houses, and seven trees. The illustrations can be used not only to teach counting but also to help your child learn addition and subtraction. The last page offers useful material for adults.



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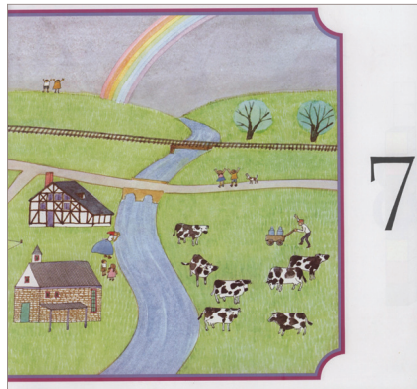
Words to Learn

Although there are no words in the story, your children can learn how to read the number symbols: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

About the Math

While counting the objects in each scene, your child can learn:

- How to say the counting words from one to 12.
- How to count objects one at a time. This is not so easy because the objects are scattered throughout the illustration and your child must look carefully to find them.
- That the blocks on the left and the written number on the right always show the number of objects to be found.
- That the objects can be seen as separate groups and then added to get the total. For example, your child can see a group of four cows and a group of three, then add them together to get seven cows.



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Math Talk During Reading

TRY FINDING THE RIGHT NUMBER OF OBJECTS ON EACH PAGE

I see the number five. Can you find five cabooses on the train?

TRY FINDING A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF OBJECTS—NOT THE TARGET NUMBER

For example, in the case of five, there is only one train engine: Can you find one of something in the picture?

PRACTICE ADDING AND PREDICTING

For example, on the page with five, you can ask: How many children are here and how many are over there? How many altogether? How many children will there be on the next page?

TALK ABOUT THE CHANGES AS THE SEASONS PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE BOOK

Now it's winter. What's different? What are the people doing? What are they wearing?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

Children can illustrate their own counting book with scenes from their daily life, count the objects on the page, and then represent

Bear in a Square by Stella Blackstone and Debbie Harter

AGE LEVEL 3–4 years

About the Story

Bear introduces different shapes on each page of the bilingual story, *Bear in a Square*. Whether he's at home or in the park, there are squares, circles, and other shapes hidden in each scene. The number of shapes increases from one to 10, making this a good story to talk about both shapes and numbers.



1 Find the bear in the square. Busca al oso que está en el cuadrado. one uno

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Words to learn

SHAPES

square, heart, circle, rectangle, moon, diamond, zigzag, oval, star

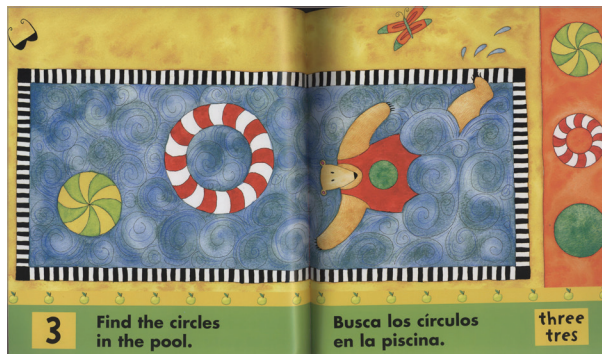
OTHER WORDS

queen, pool, cave, crown, clown

About the Math

When talking about the different shapes, your child can learn:

- Each shape has its own name, such as rectangle, oval, and circle.
- Shapes have specific properties that make them different from other shapes. For example, a rectangle has four sides, but an oval has no sides.
- We can recognize shapes that are of different sizes and in different positions. For example, if we turn a rectangle on its side, or every which way, it's still a rectangle.
- Shapes are all around us!



3 Find the circles in the pool. Busca los círculos en la piscina. three tres

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Math Talk During Reading

TALK ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SHAPES

How many sides does a square have? What about a star?

NOTICE THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SHAPES

How do you know this is an oval? How is it different from a circle?

TALK ABOUT THE OTHER SHAPES IN THE PICTURE

What other shapes do you see, besides the hearts?

PRACTICE COUNTING THE NUMBER OF SHAPES ON THE PAGE

How many circles can you find?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

FIND SHAPES AROUND THE HOUSE OR ALMOST ANYWHERE ELSE

Let's look around. Do you see any triangles? What do you notice about this one? Why is it a triangle?

Bears on Chairs

by Shirley Parenteau and David Walker

AGE LEVEL 2–5 YEARS

About the Story

Four small bears fit perfectly, each sitting on one of four small chairs—that is, until Big Brown Bear shows up! Can Big Brown Bear share a chair with one small bear? Not quite. Big Brown Bear feels left out without a chair of its own! But the four small bears are clever and work together to find a way for all five bears to share the four chairs. This is a charming book with rhymes that young children will enjoy.



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Words to Learn

NUMBER WORDS

one, two, three, four, five, more, each, second, last, pair, share, fair, whole, double

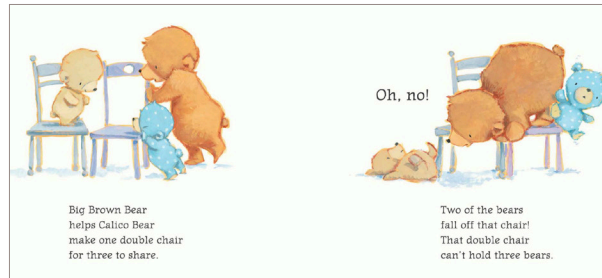
SPATIAL AND SIZE WORDS

small, big, long, beside, near, off, up

About the Math

This story is about counting, number comparisons, fair sharing, and size relationships. While reading, children can learn:

- To count and compare the number of bears and chairs: Each bear needs one chair. When there are five bears, there are more bears than chairs!
- To name the ordinal positions of the chairs, such as the first chair.
- Size relationships: Big Brown Bear is taller and wider than the small bears. A small chair can't fit Big Brown Bear, but four chairs together are long enough to fit all five bears.
- Fair sharing: How the five bears can share four chairs, and then each bear will have slightly less than one full chair.



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Math Talk During Reading

COUNT AND COMPARE THE NUMBER OF BEARS AND CHAIRS

“Are there the same number of bears and chairs? Does each bear have its own chair? How many chairs would you need so every bear has its own chair?”

NOTICE THE ORDER OF CHAIRS

“When Calico Bear moves its chair to the end, which chair is first and which is last?”

EXPLORE SIZE RELATIONSHIPS

“Which bear is the tallest? Are the chairs wider than the bears? What size chair does Big Brown Bear need?”

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

SHARING FOOD

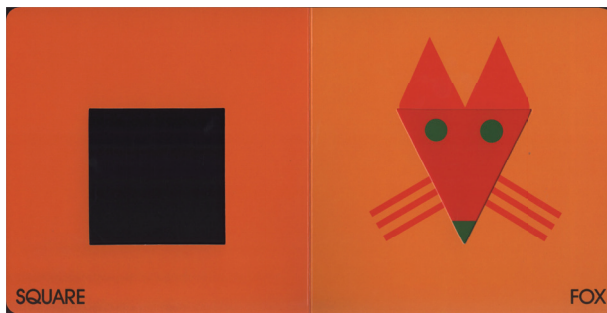
Make pretend food, such as a sandwich, out of playdough. Tell children, “If you want to share your ‘sandwich’ with a friend, how would you split it so you both get the same amount?” Then practice sharing with three or more friends.

Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert

AGE LEVEL 3–5 years

About the Story

Color Zoo presents pages with cutout shapes that can stack together to create different animals. When your child turns a page, one shape is removed and a new animal is magically revealed. For example, the square and triangle stack together to make a mouse's face, but when the square is removed, the child sees a fox!



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Words to Learn

SHAPE NAMES AND PROPERTIES

circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, heart, diamond, octagon, hexagon, sides, corners, round

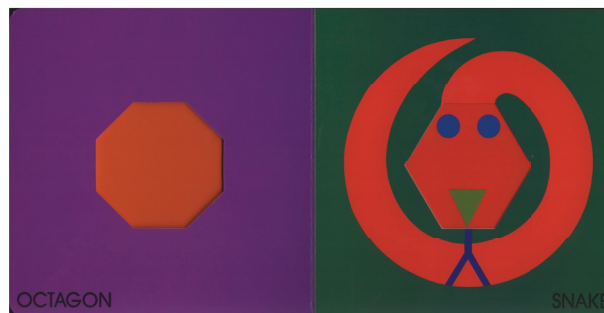
ANIMALS

mouse, fox, ox, monkey, deer, lion, goat, snake

About the Math

Color Zoo is a shape book. While exploring the various shapes in various readings, children can learn:

- The names of the various shapes, such as oval, octagon, and hexagon.
- The properties of each shape. For example, squares have four sides that are all the same length.
- How shapes can be combined to make images. For example, the heart and circles together make the face of a deer.
- How to compare different shapes. For example, an octagon has eight sides while a hexagon has six sides.



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Math Talk During Reading

NOTICE HOW THE SHAPES ARE PUT TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENT ANIMAL ON EACH PAGE

What shapes make up the mouse's face?

EXPLORE HOW THE SHAPES ARE SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT

How is the rectangle different from the square? How are they the same?

TALK ABOUT THE NAMES AND PROPERTIES OF SHAPES

What is this shape called? How many sides does it have? How do you know?

OBSERVE THE DIFFERENT SHAPES THAT MAKE UP OBJECTS ALL AROUND YOU

Let's look around the room. What shapes do you see?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

MAKE YOUR OWN ANIMALS OUT OF SHAPES

Let's cut out some triangles, squares, and circles. What animal can we make if we put them together?

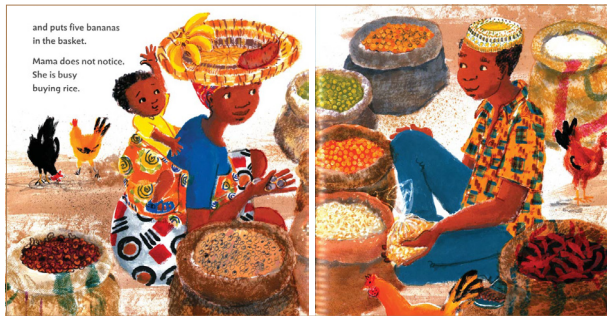
Baby Goes to Market

by Atinuke and Angela Brooksbank

AGE LEVEL 3–5 years

About the Story

Baby is tied to Mama’s back in an outdoor African market. A seller gives Baby 6 bananas without Mama knowing. Baby eats 1 and puts 5 in the basket on Mama’s head. Other sellers give Baby food, too. Each time, Baby eats 1 piece of food and puts the rest in Mama’s basket. At the end, Mama is surprised to find so much food in her basket! She decides to go home and feed Baby, who, she thinks, must be very hungry.



Text © 2017 by Atinuke
Illustrations © 2017 by Angela Brooksbank

Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

five, four, three, two, one

OTHER WORDS

market, curious, seller, crowded, grins, palm oil, chin-chin biscuits (a fried pastry, a little like a small donut), chili peppers

About the Math

As Baby and Mama stroll through the market, your child can learn:

- To count the treats that Baby gets and the treats that end up in the basket.
- Taking away one treat reduces the total number of treats by one.
- The numbers of treats are in reverse order: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.
- There are many beautiful patterns on the clothes people wear in the market.



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Math Talk During Reading

COUNT THE TREATS

How many oranges did the seller give Baby? How many did Baby eat? How many oranges did Baby put in Mama’s basket?

ADD ONE TO FIND THE TOTAL

Mama has lots of things in her basket—five bananas and a yam. How many things are in Mama’s basket altogether?

EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED

The seller gave Baby 5 oranges. But there are only 4 oranges in Mama’s basket. Why does she have only 4? What happened?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

PLAY GROCERY STORE

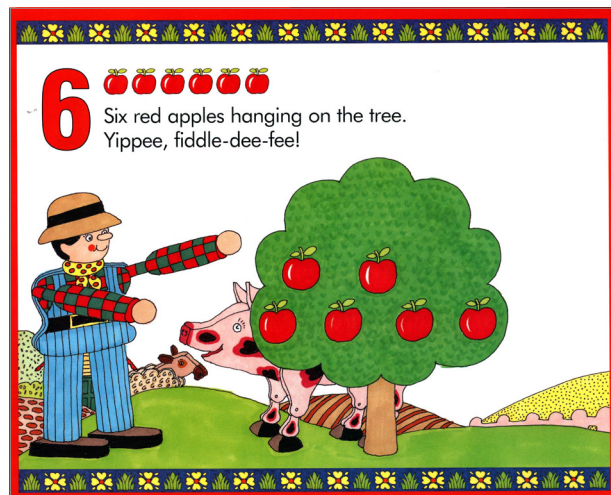
Give your child some play food (or real food) to “sell” to you. You “buy” 5 apples. Cover them. Take one away as your child watches. Ask, “How many are left under the cover?”

Ten Red Apples by Pat Hutchins

AGE LEVEL 3-5 YEARS

About the Story

A farmer starts with 10 red apples hanging on the tree. But then horse comes along and eats one apple! The farmer is left with nine apples, until cow comes and eats another! More animals arrive, each making funny sounds as it eats another apple off the farmer's tree. The farmer is happy that he is left with one apple for himself, but his wife is sad to find no apples left for her. What can the farmer do to help his wife?



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Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one

About the Math

Children can practice counting and subtracting in the story. While reading, children can learn:

- To practice careful counting by pointing to each apple once and only once while saying the counting words.
- How to figure out how many apples are left after an animal eats one. Each time, there is one less, and the numbers decrease in order from 10 all the way down to zero.
- To match the number of apples on the tree with the written numeral and the number word on the top left of the page.



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Math Talk During Reading

PRACTICE CAREFULLY COUNTING THE NUMBER OF APPLES

How many apples are on the tree? Let's point to each apple as we count it. How many apples are on the top of the page?

TRY SUBTRACTING ONE APPLE

How many apples are on the tree? How many apples will be left after pig eats one?

NOTICE THE WRITTEN NUMBER AFTER COUNTING THE APPLES

There are five apples. This is the number 5 and this is the word five.

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

COUNT THE FOOD THAT YOUR CHILD IS EATING AND TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR CHILD EATS ONE ITEM OF THAT FOOD.

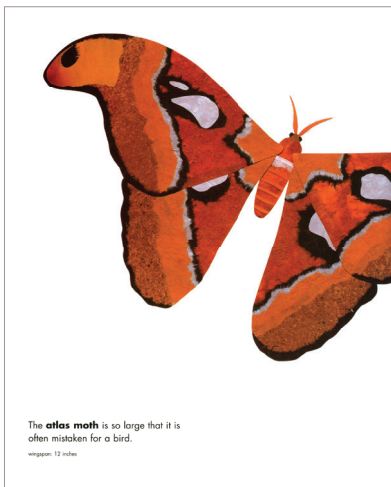
For example, "One, two, three, four. You have FOUR strawberries! Yum, you just ate one. How many strawberries are left? You can count again to make sure."

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

AGE LEVEL 4–5 years

About the Story

In *Actual Size*, we meet animals of different sizes. Animals are drawn to scale so children can see how they measure up to each animal. Each page includes interesting facts and physical dimensions of the animal.



© 2004 by Steve Jenkins

Words to Learn

MEASUREMENT WORDS

largest, giant, enormous, heaviest, longest, smallest

ANIMALS

moth, squid, crocodile, ostrich, anteater, tarantula

About the Math

Actual Size is about size relationships and measurement. When exploring and measuring the animals in the book, your child may learn:

- Animals come in many different sizes. Some are big, small, short, or long.
- How to compare animals of different sizes to find out which animal is bigger, smaller, shorter, or longer.
- How your child compares in size to the different animals.



© 2004 by Steve Jenkins

Math Talk During Reading

MAKE AN INFORMED JUDGMENT

Can you tell what animal is on this page? How do you know?

COMPARE ANIMALS OF DIFFERENT SIZES

Which one do you think is bigger, smaller, shorter, longer? How do you know?

MEASURE THE ANIMALS USING DIFFERENT BODY PARTS

Let's use your hand to measure the size of the animals. How big is this animal compared to your hand?

EXPLORE HOW YOUR CHILD'S SIZE COMPARES TO THE SIZE OF THE ANIMALS

How does your foot compare to the elephant's foot? Which one is bigger?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

TALK ABOUT MEASUREMENT IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU

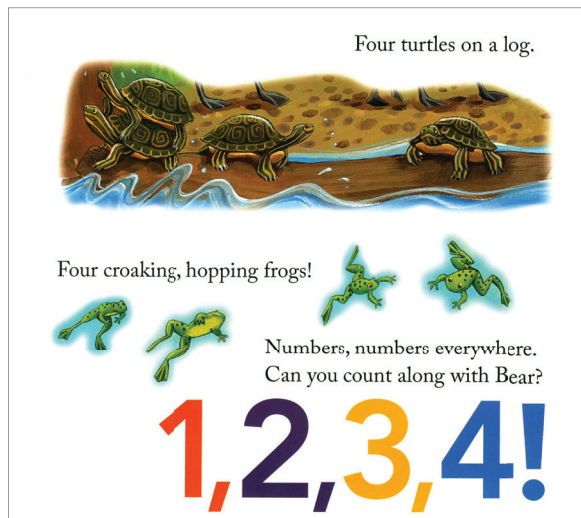
Let's look at this tiny ant! How small is it compared to your thumb?

Bear Counts by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman

AGE LEVEL 3–5 years

About the Story

As bear and mouse are sharing breakfast, they count objects all around them, such as one giant dragonfly and two sweet apples. As bear counts the various objects, children are invited to count along.



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Illustrations copyright © 2015 by Jane Chapman

Words to Learn

NUMBER WORDS AND SYMBOLS

one, two, three, four, five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

ANIMAL WORDS

dragonfly, hare, raven, owl, wren, muskrat, badger, mole, gopher, crowdad

About the Math

Bear Counts is a counting book that introduces numbers one through five. As children count along with bear, they can learn:

- Each object is counted once and only once.
- The last number we count tells us the total number of objects.
- How to name the counting words in order: one, two, three, four, five.
- How to read the written numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.



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Math Talk During Reading

WHEN YOU COUNT THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS, STRESS THE LAST NUMBER YOU COUNT

One, two, **THREE**. There are **THREE** bumblebees altogether.

HAVE CHILDREN SHOW THE NUMBER WITH THEIR FINGERS

How many fish are there? Can you show me the number four using your fingers?

POINT TO THE WRITTEN NUMERAL WHEN READING THE NUMBER WORD

There are five ducks. This is the number 5.

PREDICT WHAT NUMBER COMES NEXT

So far we have seen the numbers one, two, three, four. What number comes next? How do you know?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

LOOK FOR WRITTEN NUMERALS AT HOME. YOU WILL HAVE TO HELP YOUR CHILD SEE THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO FIND THEM

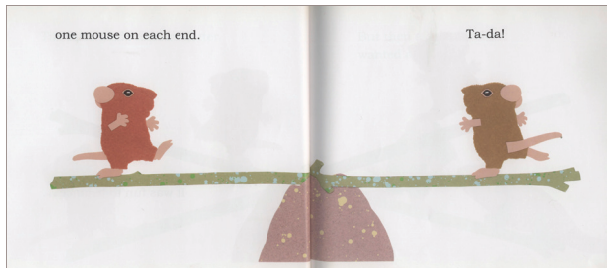
Let's try to find some numbers in the kitchen! Let's look carefully.

Balancing Act by Ellen Stoll Walsh

AGE LEVEL 2–6 years

About the Story

Balancing Act is a simple yet engaging story about two mice who create a teeter-totter by balancing a stick on a rock. When a salamander joins them, it creates an imbalance until another salamander balances on the other side. Children can make predictions about what will happen when more and more creatures flock to either side of the stick.



© 2010 by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Words to Learn

ANIMAL WORDS

mouse, salamander, frog, bird

OTHER WORDS

teeter-totter, balance, luckily, stepped in

About the Math

Balancing Act is about balancing weight on either side of the teeter-totter. When reading the story, children can learn:

- How the stick becomes balanced or unbalanced, depending on which creatures join the mice.
- Balancing doesn't depend on the number of animals on either side of the stick. Instead it depends on the weight on either side.
- How to describe and compare weights. For example, the mouse and the salamander weigh more than just the mouse alone.
- We can use tools, such as a teeter-totter or a scale, or measure weight



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Math Talk During Reading

MAKE A PREDICTION

What will happen when the salamander joins the mice? How do you know?

TALK ABOUT BALANCING

Do you think one side weighs more than the other side, or do both sides weigh the same? How can you make sure the stick is balanced?

NOTICE THE SYMMETRY

Look at this page on the left and look at this page on the right. Do they look the same or different? What makes them look the same or different?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR CHILD'S LIFE

Have you ever played on a seesaw? What would happen if you sat on one side of the seesaw and the mouse sat on the other side?

Albert Adds Up! by Eleanor May and Deborah Melmon

AGE LEVEL 3–6 years

About the Story

In *Albert Adds Up!*, Albert is so excited about the book his sister Wanda brings from the library that he is willing to trade his favorite toys to read it. First he offers Wanda one toy and then adds another. Soon he even adds his pet worms. But Wanda does not want to trade the book for any of Albert's things. She makes him take them away. Why? That's a big surprise at the end of the story.



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Words to Learn

MATH WORDS

first, one more, both, plus, altogether

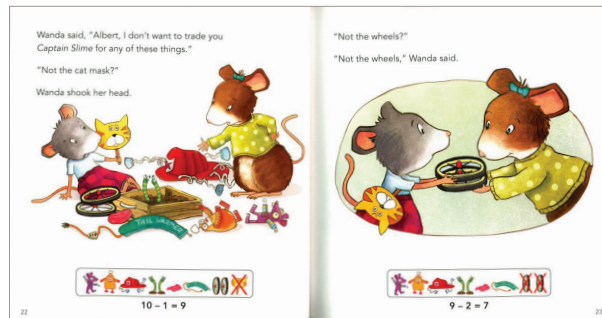
OTHER WORDS

scampered, squeaked, gulped, scurried, interrupted, beamed, trade

About the Math

As Albert adds and subtracts different items to trade for the book, your child can learn:

- That adding creates more items and subtracting creates fewer items.
- How to count up the number of items every time Albert adds something else to find out the new total.
- How to count up the number of items every time Albert takes something away to find out how many are left.
- When ready, your child might learn how to read number sentences with the symbols +, -, and =.



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Math Talk During Reading

COUNT HOW MANY ITEMS THERE ARE IN TOTAL

Albert offered Wanda three toys and two more worms. How many things do you think that is altogether? Let's count and find out.

USE YOUR FINGERS TO SUBTRACT ALONG WITH ALBERT

Hold up 10 fingers, just like Albert has 10 items. He takes away the cat mask. If we put down one finger, how many fingers do we have left? How do you know?

TALK ABOUT THE CHARACTERS' MOTIVATION

Why was Albert trying to trade with Wanda? Why didn't Wanda want any of Albert's things?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

Activity After Reading

GATHER 11 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. PRACTICE SUBTRACTION BY TAKING AWAY SOME ITEMS. KEEP GOING UNTIL THERE ARE NO MORE LEFT. ASK:

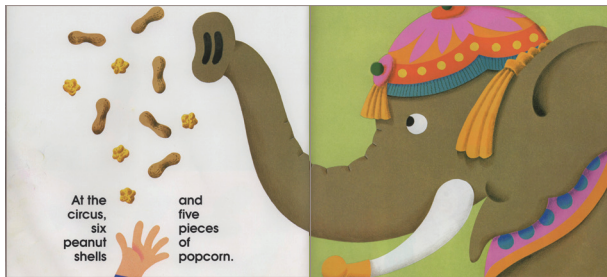
How many did we start with? How many did we take away? How many are left now?

12 Ways to Get to 11 by Eve Merriam

AGE LEVEL 5–6 years

About the Story

12 Ways to Get to 11 is a counting book about decomposing, or breaking apart, the number 11 in various ways. Each page shows a different combination of objects, such as nine pinecones and two acorns. The story encourages children to think about counting objects in the world around them.



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Words to Learn

OBJECTS YOUR CHILD CAN COUNT

pine cone, acorn, pitcher, bouquet, sail, anchor, catalog, postcard, triplets, twins, sow, piglet

ACTION WORDS

darting, cracking open, poking out, hatched

About the Math

To count the objects and figure out different ways to get to 11, your child can learn:

- We group and count all the like items together. For example, group and count the peanut shells together and then count all the popcorn pieces separately.
- We need to keep track of which objects we already counted so we don't count each object more than once or miss any.
- We can break apart a group of objects into smaller groups.
- When we combine those smaller groups back together, we get the total number of objects.



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Math Talk During Reading

PRACTICE COUNTING THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS ON EACH PAGE AND PUTTING ALL THE OBJECTS TOGETHER TO FIND THE TOTAL
How many pine cones are there? How many acorns are there? How many is that altogether?

EXPLORE COMPARING THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS IN EACH GROUP
Are there more acorns or pine cones? How do you know?

TALK ABOUT DECOMPOSING 11 IN A NEW WAY
Can you think of a different way to get to 11?

TRY TO COME UP WITH WAYS TO DECOMPOSE OTHER NUMBERS
Can you think of two ways to get to the number five?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments too!

Activity After Reading

COLLECT OBJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE THAT ADD UP TO 11
Let's see if we can make a group of forks and a group of spoons that add up to 11 altogether.

Then collect objects around the house that add up to another number!