

LEARNING TIME

This Little Piggy: A Counting Book

By Jarvis

Count from one to ten on your fingers or toes while reading this piggy rhyme. A zany, nonsense twist on the classic nursery rhyme with bold bright graphics.

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

- Everyday experiences allow children to explore mathematical concepts.
- Singing nursery rhymes that have numbers, counting and lots of repetition help children to develop Mathematical understandings
- Reading illustrated number books allows children to explore Mathematics in a supportive and playful way.



Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop confidence when adults join in with experiences with them
- Children learn through play, song and stories
- Children feel positive about learning when learning is fun and playful

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. 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.

Welcome song - Come Along

*Come along and sing with me, sing with me
Come along and sing with me, It's time for story time*

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

*Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me
Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time*



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Song: Ride a Cock-Horse

Adults may like to gently bounce their baby on their lap or leg while singing this song (in the style of riding a horse). If possible try to have baby facing their adult so they can see each other's faces and encourage interaction.

*Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross,
To see a fine lady upon a white horse;
Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,
And she shall have music wherever she goes.*

Song: To Market, To Market

Adults can continue to gently bounce their children on their laps as they 'ride' to the market. Continue to face each other and hold hands if baby/toddler needs some support to stay upright/balanced.

*To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,
Home again, home again, jiggity – jig!
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog,
Home again, home again, jiggity – jog!*

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

Before Reading

Point out the pig on the cover of the story and tell the children, *We're going to read a story about a pig.* Talk about the funny details on the cover. *This pig is wearing glasses! I wonder if the pig is riding her scooter to the market!*

Encourage parents that even though baby may not understand all the words yet, it is important that they hear lots of language so that they begin to learn to talk themselves. Books are a great tool to provide lots of interesting and colourful things to talk about!

During Reading

The story has entertaining illustrations. Talk about the funny things in the pictures and point them out as you read. Try to gauge the interest in the room to determine how much you talk about the pictures. *The pig is wearing a scarf. It looks like she has a watermelon in her trolley. Look what the gorilla is eating.*

When reading with just one child, children are more likely to concentrate for a longer period and notice smaller details. When reading to a large group it may be necessary to read the story more quickly without pausing as often.

Read the text on each page and then point to each pig and count how many pigs are on each page.

After Reading

Song: This Little Piggy – Finger/Toe Rhyme

This little piggy went to market (Wiggle baby's big toe)

This little piggy stayed home (Wiggle baby's second toe)

This little piggy had roast beef (Wiggle baby's third toe)

This little piggy had none (Wiggle baby's fourth toe)

*This little piggy cried "wee, wee, wee" All the way home.
(Wiggle baby's little toe, then tickle all the toes as you 'walk' your
fingers back to the big toe)*

Song: Ten Little Fingers– Finger/Toe Rhyme

*One little, two little, three little fingers,
Four little, five little, six little fingers,
Seven little, eight little, nine little fingers,
Ten fingers on my hands!*

*Ten little, nine little, eight little fingers,
Seven little, six little, five little fingers,
Four little, three little, two little fingers,
One finger on my hand*

You could also sing this song with 'piggies' instead of fingers and count toes.

Extension ideas

Act like a piggy! Support the children to move like a pig and roll in the mud. (Roll around on the floor). The children may like to make pig noises as well. Encourage adults to join in with the children.

Counting: Count small everyday objects such as blocks, toys, spoons or cups. Point to them and count to five or ten. Count to five for young babies, and count to ten for older children such as toddlers or preschoolers. Put the objects in a group of five/ten and count again. Support children to join in by letting them touch and move the objects and attempt to repeat the number names after you. Children this age enjoy being introduced to counting – they may like hearing and saying numbers and experimenting with pointing and moving objects. Experiences such as these will help them learn to count correctly later. Count the objects in picture book illustrations. Point to them as you count. Babies and toddlers are not expected to count correctly in order.



Song

I Went to Visit a Farm One Day

*I went to visit a farm one day,
I saw a pig across the way,
And what do you think I heard it say? Oink, Oink, Oink!*

Finger Rhyme with Piggy Video – The Finger Family Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOLNT1ge40Y>

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. 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.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles and if your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session:

- **Who Sank The Boat** by *Pamela Allen*
- **Baby Bedtime** by *Mem Fox and Emma Quay*
- **Mary Had a Little Lamb** by *Jarvis*

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.....)!*

