



Family Activity Ideas
Ready to Read
4300 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, OH 44134
(216) 398-2800
E-mail: clonghino@WVIZ.org
Web Site: www.wviz.org

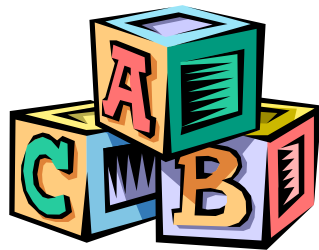
Over in the Meadow

by Ezra Jack Keats

This Appalachian counting rhyme will have young readers counting and recounting their way across the meadow, from turtles to fireflies, from one to ten. Ages 3-5.



Discussion



After reading *Over in the Meadow*, ask your child which animal/insect in this book is their favorite. What color is their favorite animal/insect? Did it have any babies, how many? What was it doing (i.e. basking, digging)? Ask your children if they have seen their favorite animal/insect outside, at the zoo, or in a pet store. Encourage your child to make-believe they are their favorite animal/insect from the book. What about other animals/insects... can they hop like a rabbit or roar like a lion? Invite your child to count the animals/insects on each page.

Activities

- **Numbers All The Time...**

Encourage children to recognize how numbers are part of their world. Children can begin to notice how words and numbers are different by going on number hunts. Walk around the neighborhood and help the children find all the places where they can find numbers, such as on license plates, on building addresses, on street signs, on telephones, on price tags. Let your children experiment with counting skills in spontaneous or everyday situations. As children are involved in activities, express enthusiasm with the use of numbers and counting. As children build with blocks ask them to count how many blocks. Children can sort socks and then count how many are in each group. - Sesame Street PEP Handbook, 1993.

- **Number Collage**

One way to begin this activity is to ask your child how old they are. Can they show you by holding up the right number of fingers? Then you could show the children old calendar pages and magazine and newspaper advertisements, see if they can point out their favorite numbers. Have the children cut out the numbers and paste them on paper to make a collage or older children could make a number booklet by pasting a numeral on each page and then drawing or pasting in pictures that show that same number of objects. - Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, 1983.



- **Animal Family Posters**

Materials: magazines, paste, large paper cardboard or construction paper, scissors

As the children look through the magazines for pictures of animals, you could talk about ways the animals are alike and how they are different. Help the children cut or tear out the pictures and encourage them to sort the pictures. Can they find all the horses, cows, dogs, cats, people, etc.? Do the children know that mother dogs always have puppies (baby dogs) that cats always have kittens (baby cats), and that humans always have baby humans? For younger children, looking through the magazines and talking about the pictures may be all that interests them. - Mr. Rogers' Plan & Play Book, 1983.

- **Paper Mache Turtle**



Tear several sheets of newspaper into very small pieces. Soak the paper pieces in the pan filled with water thoroughly before you use them (one half hour). Turn bowl upside down and use as a mold. Cover entire surface of bowl with soaked newspaper pieces, making sure to overlap pieces. Make sure the paper is completely dry before you take it off the mold (overnight or 20 hours). After getting the paper off the mold, cut around the edges to make the "turtle shell"

even. To reinforce the turtle shell mix 2 parts glue with one part water and coat the under side of the turtle shell. Make the head, tail, and legs from construction paper. Glue onto the underside of the "turtle shell". Decorate the turtle any way you would like with materials such as scraps of cloth, old buttons and beads, paint, yarn, etc. - Make It Yourself, 1994.

- **Hopscotch For The Whole Family**

Materials: 10 cardboard squares or sheets of paper, tape, marker

Write the numbers 1-10 on cardboard squares or paper. In hopscotch pattern, tape cardboard or paper numbers to the bare floor. Have children jump from one number to another in numerical order. Change the activity by calling out specific numbers or having children jump one-legged. Put infant on the floor, and each time the infant crawls on a number, ask your older children to call out the number. Your infant will feel like part of the group while the older children will have fun anticipating the next number. Instruct toddlers to hop from one square to another without worrying about number recognition. Make a set of picture, shape or color cards just for toddlers to use. School age children can use hopscotch numbers to practice addition or multiplication. Have them jump on two different numbers with one foot on each and end with a jump with two feet on the answer or call out answers bigger than ten. - Homespun Curriculum, 1998.



Other Books for Children

The New Baby Calf by Edith Newlin Chase

A-Hunting We Will Go by Steven Kellogg

Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming

Don't forget to visit your local library!!!

