



THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM



4Cs
Community Coordinated
Child Care

COUNTING

*Creative work is play. It is free speculation
using materials of ones chosen form.*
Stephen Nachmanovitch

We All Went On A Safari by Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns

Learn to count in Swahili and discover all kinds of African animals with this exciting children's safari through the grasslands of Tanzania! The lively, rhyming text is supplemented by a map and by facts about Tanzania and the Maasai people who live there, notes about each of the animals, and an illustrated guide to counting in Swahili. With additional copies of the book in Spanish and French, your children can learn to count to ten and names of animals in four different languages! This is a great opportunity to introduce your children to other cultures and diverse languages spoken around the world.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 3 to 6 years

- As you read the story, ask the children to move like the animals being described.
- Make animal sounds like the animals in the story.
- Have the children clap while counting out the animals in the story.
- Put a number line on the wall that you can point to while the children are counting so they can visualize the numbers. (Number Line included in Kit)

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Act out the animals in the book. Imitate the sounds the animals make.
- 2) What's your favorite animal from the story? Read the information from the back of the book about each animal and talk with kids about what they know about each animal. Share the photographs of the real animals as you talk about them. Now tape the photographs to the wall in a line that is easily visible to the children. Sitting in a circle, give each child a post-it sticky note and ask the children to say the name of the animal they like best and then place their sticky note under that animal. After all the children have had their turn, count up the notes for each animal and attach that number on the wall. Ask the children to stand underneath the animal they chose as their favorite. Now have the children count how many are in their group and see if that number matches the number taped next to their animal. Help the children figure out which animal had the most votes and which had the fewest. Talk about why some animals may not have gotten any votes at all.

Kit Supplies: 8x10 laminated photographs of each animal, Post-It notes, laminated numeral cards

- 3) Play Hopscotch.

Kit Supplies: hopscotch mat





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To play is to yield oneself to a kind of magic.
Hugo Rahner

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Duck and Goose 123 by Tad Hills

Simple, fun counting book for the
youngest of children.

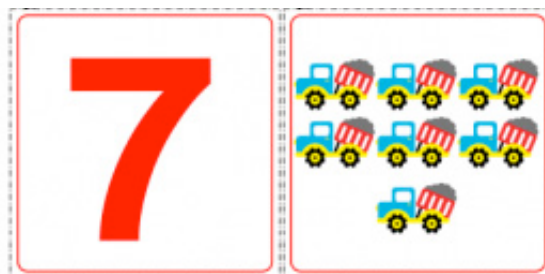
Ages: 0 to 3 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Use fingers to show values of #1, #2, #3, etc. Ask children if they can think of another way to show the numbers.
- Once they know the story, ask children to read along with you.
- Read the book backwards!
- Ask children to “be” the butterfly characters while you read by making butterfly hands by linking your thumbs together and wiggling your fingers to “fly” around the room.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Talk a walk (inside or out) and count the footsteps it takes to reach your destination.
Tip: Choose places to walk to that are under 10 steps away
- 2) Look around the space to find 1 of something, 2 of something, etc.
- 3) Play with the animal counting matching game. Match the number of animals with the correct numbers.
The puzzle is self correcting - kids will know when they have answered correctly.
Kit Supplies: Animal counting matching game





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*Almost all creativity involves purposeful play.
Abraham Maslow*

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Five Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed by Eileen Christelow

Repetitive rhythm is also a song. Easy for kids to remember the words to this story.

Ages: 0 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Talk about feelings pointing out how the mom character is excited, worried, ecstatic and ask children how mom's facial expressions give clues to what she's feeling.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Role Play the story setting up a blanket as the "bed" with characters played by the kids.

Kit Supplies: Monkey finger puppets

- 2) Sing the "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed" song.

Web Sources: busSongs.com, youtube.com

- 3) Visit fivelittlemonkeys.com. This website celebrates the book and includes an activity kit that can be downloaded with more activity ideas.

