

Five Little Monkeys

Primary Objectives

- 5. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills
- 20a. Counts

Why It's Important

Movement activities that involve counting help your child to learn number sequences while developing motor skills.

Materials

Markers; scissors; medium-sized paper grocery bags

What You Do

1. Cut a hole big enough for your child's face to show through on one of the large rectangular sides of each bag. Draw ears next to the hole to look like monkey ears.
2. Invite your child and four others to play "Five Little Monkeys" with you. Ask each child to put on a monkey mask.
3. Count the children with the monkey masks. *One, two, three, four, five. There are five monkeys.*
4. Sing the song: *Five little monkeys jumping on the bed. One fell off and bumped his head. Mama called the doctor and the doctor said, No more monkeys jumping on the bed! Four little monkeys jumping on the bed....*
5. Continue until there are no more monkeys in the song. As you sing, encourage the children to jump up and down.
6. As each monkey "falls off the bed," have one of the children pretend to fall and then sit next to you.
7. After each monkey falls off the bed, recount the children. Encourage the children who are no longer jumping to count with you. *Can you help me count the rest of the monkeys? One, two, three. Only three monkeys left to jump.*
8. When the song is finished, encourage the children to sing it again on their own. Keep the monkey masks with your child's other toys for her to use at a later time.