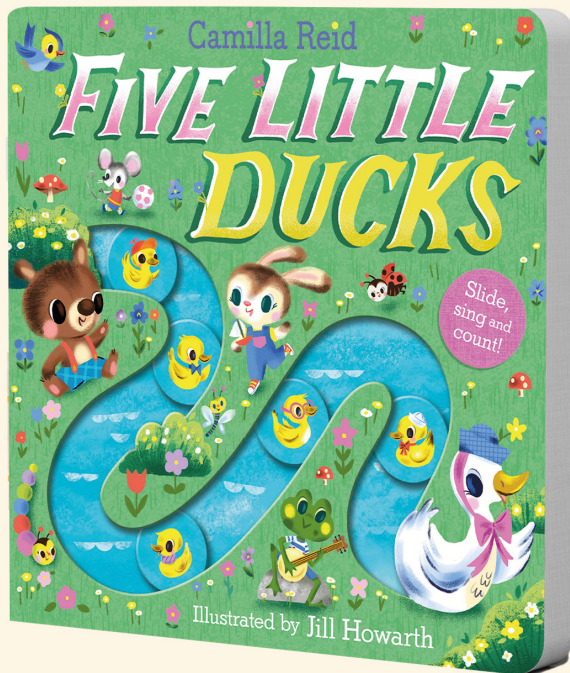


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- ✿ This resource is designed to support individual or group reading of *Five Little Ducks: A Slide and Count Book*, providing ideas for how to share the book and suggestions for activities to consolidate learning.
- ✿ Use it in your EY setting to support children in the three prime areas with focus on the specific areas below:
- ✿ **In Literacy (L):** to develop a love of books and reading; to build vocabulary; to demonstrate understanding of what is being read to them.
- ✿ **In Mathematics (M):** to count confidently to ten; to compare quantities to ten in different contexts; to add one more.
- ✿ **In Understanding the World (UW):**

to explore the natural world around them, making observations and naming familiar animals and their young.

- ✿ **In Expressive Arts and Design (EAD):** to make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories; to sing well-known nursery rhymes and songs; drawing pictures of animals.



Before reading: learn all about ducks



- ✿ Before reading, can children share what they know about ducks? What sound do ducks make? Where do they live? Where have children seen ducks before?
- ✿ Create a word mat for the vocabulary in the book, using images and labels: mother duck; little; duck; quack; swimming; hills; far away; one; two; three; four; five.
- ✿ Draw a picture of a duck or share an image of a duck with children. Can they describe what the duck looks like? Help children to identify the different features of a duck: eyes; body; feathers; wings; legs; webbed feet; and bill. Can children see the differences in size and appearance between an adult 'mother' duck and her ducklings?

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- ✿ The book includes an interactive element which helps children develop their counting skills. Before they start reading, create duck stick puppets by attaching paper duck cut-outs to the back of lollipop sticks. You will need one mother duck, and five duckling stick puppets. Encourage children to hold these up as they read.
- ✿ Before reading the book, one option is to put children into five groups and assign them one of the objects/animals that feature in the book. They can wear masks, create puppets, or hold up drawings to represent their group. Each group is responsible for making the correct sound when reading.
- ✿ Choose one child to act as 'mother duck' and five more as the ducklings. Ask these children to stand up and to sit down when it gets to the correct point in the story. This will help children to visualise the story and consolidate their counting skills.



During Reading: make the most of the interactive elements!

This book can be shared during individual, one-to-one reading sessions or during group reading sessions – preferably both!



- ✿ During individual reading, give the child time to slide the counters on each page using their fingers. Can they use their motor skills to successfully slide the counters from one end of the pond to the other? Pause on each page to allow children to count the number of counters. How many ducks can they see and how many ducks have gone away? Praise the children if they can say the number of ducks they can see without counting them individually (subitising) or support children to count one-to-one by pointing to each duck and saying one number for each.
- ✿ In a group reading session, sing the song as you turn the pages, asking children to sing along and make the appropriate noises or actions to accompany each page. They can hold up their hands and count on their fingers to show how many ducks are left or how many ducks are missing.
- ✿ Encourage children to look closely at the illustrations throughout. Can they spot any other objects or animals that they are familiar with? Or any they don't recognise?
- ✿ Let children linger on any images or pages that interest them. Ask them questions about what they see, what they like and what they are curious about.



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After Reading: activities to consolidate learning

Children require supervision when completing these activities.



Activity 1: Story Sequencing

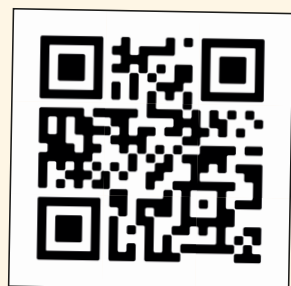
- ✿ The predictable sequence of *Five Little Ducks* makes it perfect for sequencing and retelling practice. Encourage children to retell the story using small duck pieces, toys or duck cut-outs on a farm mat. They can move the pieces around as they retell the story of the five little ducks. They can even re-enact the ducks swimming, getting lost, and mother duck's reaction. How does she feel when her ducklings don't come back?

Activity 2: Five Little Ducks Mini-Book

- ✿ Create six 'pages' showing each stage of the story, the first page with five ducks, the next with four, the next with three etc. and the last page with no ducks. Model reading the book, stopping on each page to ask children: 'How many ducks can you see?'. Encourage the children to subitise by saying the number of ducks they can see without counting. Leave the book in the provision for children to read independently or share with friends.

Activity 3: Adding and Subtracting Ducks

- ✿ Place five cut-out ducks in a row. Count them together and emphasise that there are five ducks altogether. Ask a child to make one duck swim to the side (so that the children can still see it, but it is separate from the rest of the group). Encourage the children to say how many ducks have swum away and how many are left (1 and 4). Can they tell you how many ducks there are altogether without counting them again? Reinforce that the number of ducks hasn't changed, they are just arranged differently. Repeat by making a second duck swim away. Ask again, how many have swum away and how many are left (2 and 3). And again find out if they can tell you how many ducks there are altogether. Repeat until five ducks have swum away and no ducks are left, using the mathematical term 'zero'. If appropriate, encourage the children to make marks to represent what happens with the ducks each time, such as using pictures, dots or numbers.



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