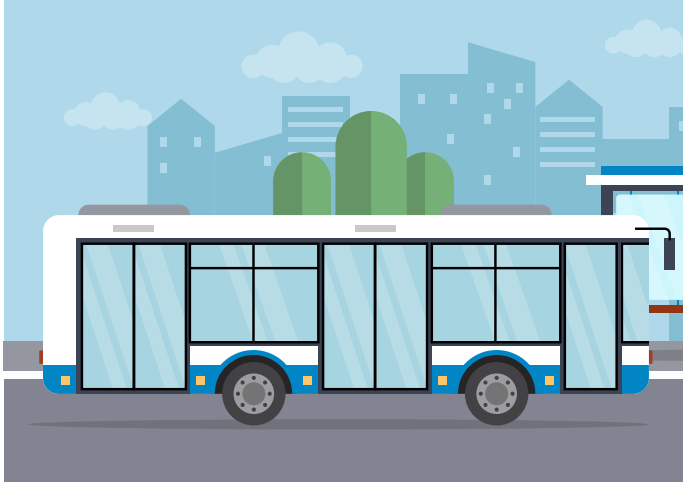


Math Song Guide Based on “The Wheels on the Bus”

Topic: Spatial Relations

This song is not just about riding on a bus. It’s about moving our bodies in the space!

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...
The doors on the bus go open and shut...
The money in the box goes clink, clink, clink...
The driver on the bus says, “Move on back...”
The people on the bus go up and down...
The babies on the bus say, “Wah, wah, wah...”
The parents on the bus say, “Shh, shh, shh...”
(or “I love you...”)



Listen to
the Song

“The Wheels on the Bus”
song lyrics are in the Public
Domain. Author unknown.

About the Math

The **bolded** words below help children think about geometry ideas like space and place. From this song, your child can learn how to describe:

Where things are located.

- Many people are **on** the bus.
- The money goes **in** the box.
- The bus moves all **through** the town.

How things move in space.

- The wheels go **round** and **round**.
- The doors go **open** and **shut**.

Math Sing and Play

Act out the movements to emphasize the meanings. Doing the motions helps your child connect the words to what is happening in the song. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Round and round** – move finger around like wheels of the bus.
- **Swish, swish, swish** – move hands back and forth like windshield wipers.
- **Open and shut** – hold hands together like doors and make them open and shut.
- **Move on back** – use hand to motion toward the back.
- **Up and down** – bounce up and down.



Activity After the Song

You can keep the learning going by making your own bus.

- Use large old cardboard boxes and tape them together. Decorate them with markers to show wheels and windows. Your child can sit in the bus and act out the song. If you don’t have boxes, arrange chairs or pillows to make seats in a bus.
- Building and making things with your child provides opportunities to talk about math. For example, your child might say you need to place two boxes next to each other. You might point out that a school bus can have six wheels, two in the front and four in the back. Encourage this kind of talk as you build.

Math Song Guide Based on “The Hokey Cokey”

Topic: Spatial Relations

The Hokey Cokey is a song and a dance. It’s also a way to learn about math.

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

Everybody form a circle
Put your left foot in
Your left foot out
Your left foot in
And shake it all about
You do the hokey cokey And
turn yourself around That’s
what it’s all about.

Now put your right foot in...
You put your head in...
Put your right hand in...
Now put your tongue in...
You put your bottom in...

Let’s do the hokey cokey
(x3) That’s what it’s all
about.



Listen to
the Song

The Hokey Pokey
Words and Music by Charles P. Macak,
Taft Baker and Larry LaPrise
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About the Math

The **bolded** words below help children think about geometry ideas like space and place. From this song, your child can learn how to:

Describe how they move their bodies in space.

- Everybody form a **circle**.
- You put your head **in**, you put your head **out**.
- And turn yourself **around**.

Use spatial words to describe different parts of their bodies.

- Your **left** foot, your **right** foot.

Math Sing and Play

Sing the song and do the dance with your child until they know it. Then try these ideas:

- Act out the song with a toy doll or stuffed animal. Move the toy’s feet and other body parts in, out, and around. Before each verse, stop and ask the child to show the correct body part on the toy. “Next, the bear will put his right hand in. Where are the bear’s hands? Which is the right hand?”
- Ask your child to suggest other body parts that could be used in the song, such as moving their ear, elbow, two hands, or whole self. Sing the song using the suggested body part.



Activity After the Song

You can keep the song and dance interesting by making a simple musical instrument.

- Take a circular paper plate or cut out a circle from cardboard. Decorate the back with crayons, markers, stickers, etc.
- Fold the circle in half and staple or tape together the edges, leaving a small hole open at the top.
- Pour a handful of small things, like pebbles, in the hole and then staple or tape it shut. Shake it to make sure nothing falls out. (Small items are choking hazards so make sure to supervise carefully during this step.)
- Instead of dancing to the song, shake the instrument with the beat. Learning to keep a steady beat is mathematical, too!



Math Song Guide Based on “BINGO”

Topic: Patterns

This song is not only about letters, but about addition and subtraction patterns, too.

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

There was a farmer (who) had a dog,
And Bingo was his name-o.
B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O
And Bingo was his name-o.

There was a farmer...
(clap)-I-N-G-O (3 times)
(clap)-(clap)-N-G-O (3 times)
(clap)-(clap)-(clap)-G-O (3 times)
(clap)-(clap)-(clap)-(clap)-O (3 times)
(clap)-(clap)-(clap)-(clap)-(clap) (3 times)
And Bingo was his name-o.



Listen to
the Song

“BINGO” song lyrics are
in the Public Domain.
Author unknown.

About the Math

Patterns change in predictable ways. From this song, your child can recognize:

Subtraction patterns.

- B-I-N-G-O is spelled out three times in the first verse. In each verse after that, the first spoken letter is removed. The pattern subtracts one letter with each verse.

Addition patterns.

- In each verse, as the first letter is removed, one clap is added. Bingo is about subtracting and adding at the same time!

Math Sing and Play

Sing the song with your child until they know it. Then try these games:

- Reverse the pattern by starting the claps at the end instead of at the beginning: “B-I-N-G-(clap)” instead of “(clap)-I-N-G-O.”
- Replace the claps with a different sound or movement. Encourage your family to suggest ideas. For example, “(stomp)-I-N-G-O” or “beep-I-N-G-O.”
- Count the claps. After each verse, stop and say, “We clapped two times last time. How many times will we clap next?” This can help your child see that the number of claps is increasing by one.



Activity After the Song

You can keep the learning going with pattern projects, like making paper chains.

From the longer side of the paper, cut strips that are about 1 inch wide. Join the ends of one strip together with glue or scissors to make one link. Keep adding links to the chain. As you do, make different kinds of patterns.

As you do, make different kinds of patterns.

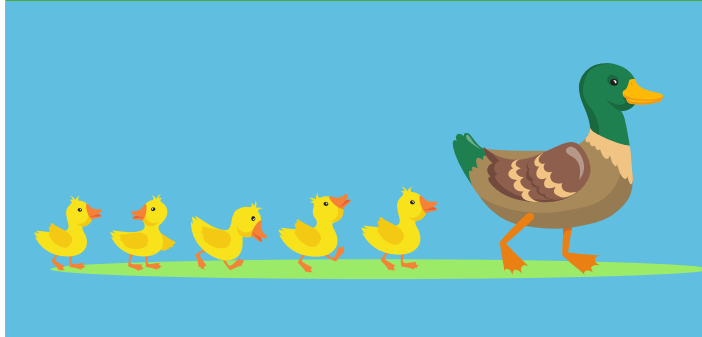
- Copy the pattern in the song. For example, make a chain using one color (red) for the letters and another color (blue) for the claps. First, create a chain of red, red, red, red, red for B-I-N-G-O, then blue, red, red, red, red for (clap)-I-N-G-O, and so on. You can even write the letters BINGO on the red strips and draw a hand (to signify clapping) on the blue strips
- Make a pattern with your child’s name. Write the letters of their name on different-colored strips. Make a chain that repeats the letters of their name.
- Make other patterns that repeat. For example, make a simple pattern that repeats: red, blue, red, blue, red, blue.

Math Song Guide Based on “Five Little Ducks”

Topic: Numbers & Counting

Five little ducks went out to play. What could go wrong?

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

Five little ducks went out to play,
Over the hill and far away,
Mother duck said, “Quack, quack, quack.”
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out to play...
But only three little ducks came back.

Three little ducks went out to play...
But only two little ducks came back.

Two little ducks went out to play...
But only one little duck came back.

One little duck went out to play...
But no little ducks came back.

No little ducks went out to play...
Over the hill and far away,
Mother duck said, “QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!” (loudly)
And all the five little ducks came back.



Listen to
the Song

“Five Little Ducks” song lyrics
are in the Public Domain.
Author unknown.

About the Math

This song can help children learn about numbers. Your child can learn how to:

Count backward from five.

- The number of little ducks is 5, then 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. Your child can use their fingers to show the number of ducks.

Subtract one.

- The number of ducks decreases by one each stanza. Your child can fold down one finger each time the number changes.

Math Sing and Play

Act out the song with your fingers and hands. Here are some ideas:

- Spread your fingers out to represent five ducks. Then bounce your hand away from you to show five little ducks going out to play. Use four fingers to show that only four ducks came back.
- Show “over the hill and far away” by tracing a hill with your hand. This can help your child understand the meaning of over and far.
- To show “no little ducks,” make a circle with your hand for zero.
- The final time Mother duck quacks, make loud quacking sounds to show that she means it! Speed up the last line showing five fingers coming back quickly.



Activity After the Song

You can keep the learning going by making duck handprint art.

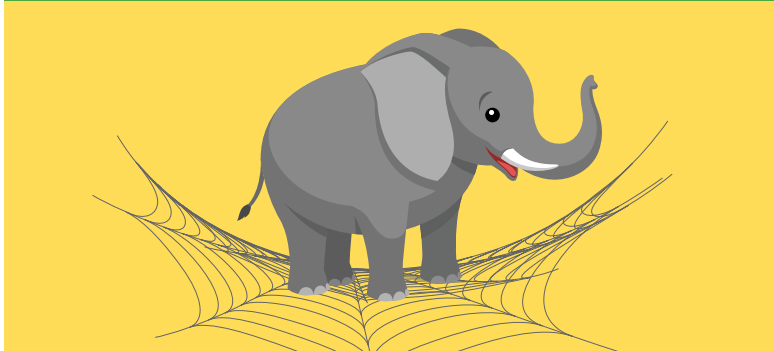
- Using yellow finger paint, make a handprint on a piece of paper. If you prefer, trace your hand on white paper and color it yellow. Draw a beak and legs for the duck. Make five duck handprints in all. Act out the song with the pictures, removing one duck each time.
- Make five different handprints, one for each number 1-5 (use only four fingers for 4, three fingers for 3, etc.). Write zero on a blank piece of paper. Tape the handprints and piece of paper to a piece of string to show counting backwards from 5 to 0.

Maths Song Guide Based on “Un Elefante se Balanceaba”

Topic: Numbers & Counting

We know spiders build strong webs. But are they strong enough to hold an elephant?

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

Un elefante se balanceaba* sobre la tela de una araña.
Como veía que resistía, fue a llamar a otro elefante.

Dos elefantes se balanceaban, sobre la tela de una araña.
Como veían que resistían, fueron a llamar a otro elefante.

Tres elefantes se balanceaban... Cuatro elefantes se balanceaban...
Cinco elefantes se balanceaban...

English Translation

An elephant was swinging on a spider web.
Since it saw the web was strong, it went to call another elephant.

Two elephants were swinging on a spider web.
Since they saw the web was strong, they went to call another elephant.

Three elephants were swinging... Four elephants were swinging...
Five elephants were swinging...

*Mexican families may sing “columpiaba” instead of “balanceaba.” Both mean “to sway or swing.”



Listen to the Song

“Un Elefante se Balanceaba” song lyrics are in the Public Domain. Author unknown.

About the Maths

This song can help children learn about numbers and addition. Your child can learn how to:

Count and add one more.

- Count forward to show the number of elephants: *un(o), dos, tres, cuatro, cinco*. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- One more elephant is added to the spider web each time.

Describe how objects move in space.

- *Balancear* and *columpiar* mean to swing or sway or rock.

Maths Sing and Play

Sing the song with your child until they know it. Then emphasize the maths in the song.

- Act out the song with your hands. Use fingers to show different numbers of elephants. Start by holding up one finger to show one elephant, then add a finger every round. Swing your hand back and forth to show the elephants swinging on the spider web.
- Pretend to be elephants. Put down a blanket or pick a spot to be the spider web. One person can be the first elephant and call another elephant over. Keep adding as many elephants as there are people.
- Continue the song, counting even higher. Add one elephant each time: *seis (6) elfantes, siete (7) elfantes, ...* as high as you can count!



Activity After the Song

You can keep the learning going by making spider web art.

- Take a circular paper plate or cut out a circle from cardboard. Cut 10-15 small slits around the edge of the plate or cardboard.
- Draw a spider on the plate. Be sure to give it eight legs!
- Cut a long piece of yarn or string and tape one end to the back of the plate.
- Weave the yarn across and around the slits to make the spider web. Then tape the other end of the yarn to the back of the plate.

Math Song Guide Based on “El Barquito Chiquitito”

Topic: Measurement

Little ones can succeed if they just keep trying!

Age Level: Preschoolers & Early Elementary



Song Lyrics

Había una vez un barquito chiquito,
Había una vez un barquito chiquito,
Que no sabía, que no podía, Que no podía nevegar.

Pasaron una, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete semanas;
Pasaron una, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete semanas;
Y aquel barquito, y aquel barquito, Y aquel barquito navegó.

Y si esta historia parece corta,
volveremos, volveremos, a empezar...

English Translation

Once there was a tiny boat, Once there was a tiny boat,
That didn't know, that couldn't, That couldn't sail.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven weeks passed;
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven weeks passed;
And that little boat, that little boat, That little boat sailed.

And if this story seems short,
Let's go back, let's go back, and start again...



Listen to
the Song

“El Barquito Chiquitito” song
lyrics are in the Public Domain.
Author unknown.

About the Math

This song can help children learn about measurement and numbers. Your child can learn how to:

Describe things using size words.

- Size words like *chico* (small) and *grande* (big)
- In Spanish, adding *-ito* or *-ita* to word endings shows they are small:
el barco (boat) > *el barquito* (tiny boat)
chico (small) > *chiquito* (a little smaller) > *chiquitito* (tiny)

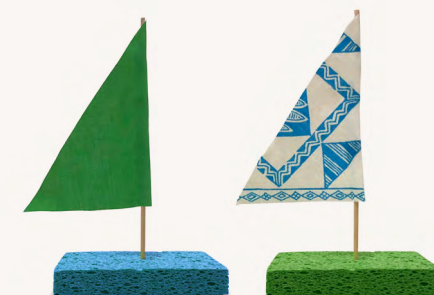
Use numbers to describe time passing.

- It takes seven weeks for the boat to learn to sail.
- Count: *una(o)*, *dos*, *tres*, *cuatro*, *cinco*, *seis*, *siete*. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Math Sing and Play

Act out the song and practice counting.
Here are some ideas:

- Cup your hands together to make a boat. During the first verse, show the boat struggling to sail. In the second verse, when the boat learns to sail, make the boat sway back and forth as if sailing on ocean waves.
- Use a calendar to reinforce counting. Show your child how long a week looks on a calendar. Count the days in one week, pointing at each day as you do. Then point and run your finger along seven weeks, counting each week as you do.



Activity After the Song

You can keep the learning going by making bathtub boat toys.

- Find a clean sponge. This will be the boat. You can leave it as is or cut it into a boat shape.
- Cut a shape (for example, triangle, square) out of cloth to make the sail. Ask your child what shape they made and how they know it is that shape.
- Use a straw or stick as the mast. Tape the sail to the mast.
- Poke a small hole in the sponge. Pull the mast through the hole, leaving a bit sticking out of the bottom.
- Your boat should float. Encourage your child to act out the song while playing with the boat.