



Core Activity

Activity	Number rhymes – Five Little Ducks
Main Focus	Counting

Possibilities for additional maths learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Activity Plan

Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five Little Ducks – either rubber ducks or ducks made out of cardboard (some form of visual props which can be easily cleaned after use) ➤ Five Little Ducks song

Activity
<p>Count the ducks showing the children there are 5. Line the ducks up and introduce the song, ‘Five Little Ducks’, some children may be familiar with it, some may not.</p> <p><u>Five Little Ducks</u> Five little ducks went swimming one day <i>(hold up one of the ducks and pretend it is swimming)</i> Over the hills and far away <i>(put it behind you or next to you or in a box away from the other ducks)</i> Mother duck said, “Quack quack quack quack” but only four little ducks came back! <i>(count the remaining ducks)</i></p> <p>Four little ducks went swimming one day <i>(hold up one of the ducks and pretend it is swimming)</i> Over the hills and far away <i>(put it behind you or next to you or in a box away from the other ducks)</i> Mother duck said, “Quack quack quack quack” but only three little ducks came back! <i>(count the remaining ducks)</i></p> <p>Three little ducks went swimming one day <i>(hold up one of the ducks and pretend it is swimming)</i> Over the hills and far away <i>(put it behind you or next to you or in a box away from the other ducks)</i> Mother duck said, “Quack quack quack quack” but only two little ducks came back! <i>(count the remaining ducks)</i></p> <p>Two little ducks went swimming one day</p>

(hold up one of the ducks and pretend it is swimming)

Over the hills and far away *(put it behind you or next to you or in a box away from the other ducks)*

Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

but only one little ducks came back! *(count the remaining ducks)*

One little duck went swimming one day

(hold up the last duck and pretend it is swimming)

Over the hills and far away *(put it behind you or next to you or in a box away from the other ducks)*

Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

but none of her little ducks came back! *(open hands in an 'empty' gesture as if to say look they are all gone)*

Sad mother duck went swimming one day *(sing sadly and slowly)*

Over the hills and far away

Mother duck said "QUACK! QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!" *(in a louder voice)*

And all of the five little ducks came back. *(get all five ducks and line them back up)*

Each time you take one little duck away this will help children understand the mathematical concept. Allow children time to predict which number is coming next in the rhyme and ask them if they can show you this number using their fingers.

Extension Opportunities

- Instead of using objects, you could use fingers.
- Use a range of songs and rhymes to help young children learn to count e.g.: 'One elephant went out to play' (for counting up); and 'Five little speckled frogs' (for counting down).
- Use props to support young to count during rhyme time and number symbols to link these two.
- Visit the Early Years Development Zone to access more nursery rhymes which contain mathematical elements.