

Rhyme Time

Title	Five busy builders banging on the floor		
Possibilities for maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subitise <input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Composition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardinality <input type="checkbox"/> Measure <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness



Five busy builders banging on the floor,
One hit his thumb, so that left four.

Four busy builders stopped to have some tea,
One fell asleep, so that left three.

Three busy builders with a lot to do,
One fell off a ladder, so that left two.

Two busy builders wanted to have some fun,
One lost his tools so that left one.

One busy builder working all alone,
Finished the job, so he went home.

Resources

You may choose to create a glove with builders on the fingers which you can fold down so the children can see them disappear. This can be created using a normal glove or a wash mitt, or you may choose to support the children to make 5 glove puppets each with a different builder on so they can use these themselves. Finger puppets are another fun way of extending this rhyme with props and children can also make their own builders on lollipop sticks and use these in the rhymes. The children will also enjoy being the builders in the rhyme, so you may choose to help them to make hard hats and builders' tool belts. These can then be used in a variety of role play activities as well as the rhyme.

Extension opportunities

If you do not have any resources you can simply help children to count with their fingers and this will help them to count down and understand that one has been taken away each time. Asking the children at the end of each verse how many builders are left will help to develop their problem solving skills as well as their number recognition and subtraction skills.

You can also support the visual counting by asking five children to stand up and sit down one by one. Ask the children what actions they may use to act out the rhyme, e.g. falling asleep. You could then use these actions again and again when chanting the rhyme. You may choose to use these in the home learning activities too.

Home learning ideas

Children will enjoy chanting this rhyme at home and you can help this by providing home learning number sacks with the words and any actions, so parents and other family members can join in.