

Rhyme Time

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



Five little sunflowers grew in a row
One had no water so that didn't grow.

Four little sunflowers grew in a row
One was too hot so that didn't grow.

Three little sunflowers grew in a row
A caterpillar ate one so that didn't grow.

Two little sunflowers grew in a row
The wind bent one so that didn't grow.

One little sunflower grew all alone
Soon she was the biggest little flower in town.

Resources

You could make sunflowers out of paper plates, pipe cleaners, cardboard tubes, children's handprints and coloured card.

Finger puppets are another fun way of extending this rhyme with props and children can also make funny sunflowers with faces on using lollipop sticks and card.

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 sunflowers 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 to act out the rhyme and make up their own actions or reason why the sunflowers didn't grow. This activity links well with Understanding the World and you may choose to extend this by growing your own sunflower seeds into flowers, which you can then measure and compare as an extension to the maths in this activity.

Home learning ideas

Children will enjoy making the resources and you can use these for home learning number sacks to enable parents to use this rhyme at home. Remember to put the words and actions in the sack too, so parents and other family members can join in.

You may suggest that the children's family would like to grow their own sunflowers and take pictures of these for the setting. Providing parents with seeds and planting and growing instructions is reasonably inexpensive and can provide extra learning opportunities at home.