

Recommended Counting & Addition/Subtraction Books

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Counting

Many counting books can also be used to teach adding and subtracting.

Anno, M. (1977). *Anno's counting book*. New York: HarperCollins.

In this wordless book, beautiful illustrations show how the land changes as we move through the seasons. Each page also shows the activities of the people and animals who live there. As the book progresses from January through December, or from 1 - 12, you'll see the numbers depicted on each page as sets of trees, people, or other objects.

Boynton, S. (1979). *Hippos go berserk*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown.

When one hippo decides to throw a party, he invites some hippo friends! First two hippos arrive, then three, and so on until it's a crowded party. When the hippos begin to leave, children can count backwards from nine back down to one. The clear illustrations and simple, rhyming text make this a good counting book that children may want to read more than once.

Ehlert, L. (1990). *Fish eyes: A book you can count on* (1st ed.). San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Children practice counting from one to 10 as they're greeted by colorful fish on each page. The simple illustrations and straightforward concept make this an ideal counting book for younger children. The story invites older children to add "plus one" more fish on each page.

Falwell, C. (1993). *Feast for 10*. New York: Clarion Books.

In this story, an African American mother and her children are grocery shopping to prepare for a fun family dinner. At the supermarket, children help pick out from 1 to 10 items. This counting book shows how the family has fun shopping, cooking and eating together.

Franco, B., & Arihara, S. (2009). *Zero is the leaves on the tree*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press.

This storybook introduces a tricky number: zero. Children are invited to find the number zero all around them, whether in the branches of a tree by day to the vast, starry sky by night.

Walsh, E. S. (1995). *Mouse count* (1st Red Wagon Books ed.). New York, NY: Harcourt.

Mouse Count doesn't only demonstrate counting from one to 10, but then it reverses and

counts backwards from 10 to one. In the story, a hungry snake captures 10 mice, adding but by the end of the story the clever mice escape. Although this is a great story to practice counting backwards, with clear and simple images, the plot may frighten young children.

Wilson, K., & Chapman, J. (2015). *Bear counts* (First Edition. ed.). New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Bear counts objects around him on each page, starting from one and ending at five. The story presents many opportunities to count objects in each scene and invites children to count along. However, it also includes many advanced vocabulary words, so it may not be appropriate for less advanced readers.

Yolen, J., & Teague, M. (2004). *How do dinosaurs count to ten?* New York, NY: Blue Sky Press. Children learn the name of each dinosaur as they count from one to 10. Simple and fun illustrations along with a rhyming pattern in the text make this a good counting book for young children. At the end of the story, children are invited to count from one to 10 “over and over again!”

Adding and subtracting

Baker, K. (1999). *Quack and count* (1st ed.). San Diego: Harcourt Brace.

This story introduces addition by showing different ways to rearrange seven ducks. Whether we have three on one page and four on the other, or five on one page and two on the other, children can explore how there are many different ways to add up to seven.

Carle, E. (2013). *Rooster is off to see the world* (Vol. 1st Simon Spotlight Ready-to-read). New York: Simon Spotlight.

Rooster is joined by friends as he sets off to see the world. A different number of animals joins him on each page, inviting children to add up the total number of animals. After the animals get homesick and begin to leave, children can practice subtracting each group of animals.

Hutchins, P. (2000). *Ten red apples*. New York: Greenwillow Books.

Farmer starts with ten red apples, but then a different animal shows up on each page to eat one of his apples until he has one left! The apples are well spaced, arranged in a clear line, and easy to distinguish from the background page, making this an ideal counting book. Children can also learn about subtracting one as we progress from 10 apples to 9, and so on.

Merriam, E., & Karlin, B. (1993). *12 ways to get to 11*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

12 Ways to Get to 11 is a counting book about decomposing, or breaking apart, the number 11 in various ways. Each page shows a different combination of objects, such as 9 pinecones and 2 acorns. The story encourages children to think about objects they can count in the world around them.

Murphy, S. J., & Karas, G. B. *Elevator magic*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. When a boy gets into an elevator with his Mom, he uses subtraction to decide which elevator button to press. He thinks aloud about the subtraction problem and the text shows the simple subtraction equation, helping children to understand subtraction conceptually. The boy and his Mom encounter crazy things every time the elevator doors open, adding an element of magical fun to the story.

Sayre, A. P., Sayre, J., & Cecil, R. (2003). *One is a snail, ten is a crab: a counting by feet book* (Vol. 1st). Cambridge, Mass: Candlewick Press.

Children can practice adding by putting together the number of feet different animals have. After they get to 10 feet, the story adds a new twist by showing how to count by 10s to get up to 100 crab feet. For example, “70 is seven crabs- or ten insects and a crab. 80 is eight crabs- or ten spiders” This is a great story to practice counting, adding, skip counting by 10s, and different ways to represent the same number.