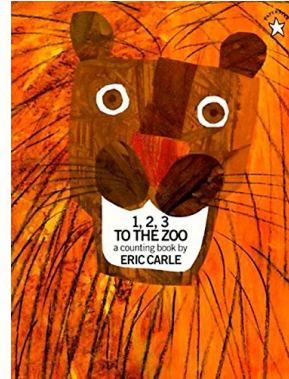


1, 2, 3 to the Zoo
by Eric Carle



Joyously colored animals, riding on a train to their new homes in the zoo, offer young children a happy first introduction to numbers and number sets, addition and counting. There are no words in this innovative book, intended for the pre-reading child, but on each striking double-spread, in addition to the large picture of, say, 1 elephant or 5 bears or 8 monkeys, there is a corresponding numeral. And along the bottom of the page is a smaller picture of the train, which grows longer and longer as each new car full of creatures is added.

- Children love to pretend to be animals! Re-read the book and act out the movement or sound of each animal as many times as the number on the page. For example, stomp your feet or trumpet your trunk once like an elephant, prowl or roar 4 times like the lions, wiggle your hips or snap your arms together like a crocodile. Let your child decide on the movement and join in on the fun!
- On the last fold-out page, play a guessing game with your child. Pick a number and ask your child to find the group of animals that are that many. You can say something like, “I see a group of 3 animals! What are they?” 3 giraffes! Support your child whenever necessary. Smaller numbers will be easier to spot. The higher numbers will require counting. Touch-pointing can be helpful but as numbers get higher, keeping track becomes a challenge. Re-counting is actually helpful for children to understand that mixing things up isn’t as important as making sure each thing was counted once, and only once.