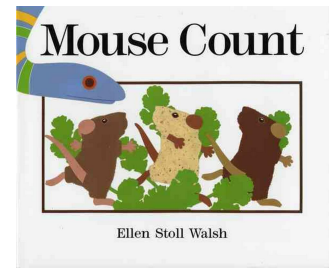


Mouse Count
by Ellen Stoll Walsh



A hungry snake finds an empty jar that he decides to fill with his dinner. He finds some mice taking a nap and begins to count the mice he captures as he fills his jar. The mice devise a plan to escape and they “uncount” themselves. The concepts of counting forward and backward are introduced in this fun story that can help young children begin to think about addition and subtraction.

- Let your child make up his/her own Mouse Count story using a clean sock as a hand puppet (for the snake), a jar, and up to 10 pom poms, cotton balls, rocks, etc (for the mice). As they add “mice” into their jar, pause occasionally to ask, “What’s happening to your collection?” Hopefully as more and more objects are being added, your child will notice that the jar is getting fuller but when the mice escape, the jar is getting emptier.
- While making a meal in which items are added to a pot (like mashed potatoes, stews, etc.), have your child bring 2 ingredients at a time and notice how the pot changes as more and more ingredients are added.
- Next time you go up a set of stairs with your child, count them- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!. On your way down, count them backwards- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1!