



Programme Content

A programme to encourage simple counting and number skills.

Before the Programme

Play some simple counting games e.g. This Little Piggy. How many ears, eyes, noses, fingers do they have. (How many noses are there in the whole class?)

Poems

Berry Picking

Strawberries, strawberries,
Yum, yum, yummy!
One for the pail
And
One for the tummy!

One to save
And one to taste
Lots to pick
And
None to waste!

(Bobbie Katz)

Strawberry Pie

Pick a strawberry
Pop a strawberry
On your tongue:
Squeeze it hard
And taste the juice...
Pick another one.

One for the basket,
Two for the mouth,
Three for supper,
Four for tea:
Five for the dish,
Then open wide!
Here's the plumpest
And that's for me!

(Judith Nicholls)

(hold up the right number of fingers)

Story

Just One by Sam McBratney

The Country Mouse sat down beside Digger and the pile of blackberries. "I'm in charge of all these," said Digger.

"They look lovely," said the mouse. "Do you think I could have some?"


"Well, don't eat too many," said Digger. "Just a few...."

Song

Five Little Monkeys



Five lit - tle mon - keys bounce - ing on the bed, One fell off and bumped his head,



Mum phoned the doc - tor and the doc - tor said, 'No more mon - key busi - ness bounce - ing on the bed!'

Verse 2. Four little monkeys bouncing on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head,
Mum phoned the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more monkey business bouncing on the bed."

Verse 3 Three little monkeys bouncing on the bed.....

Verse 4 Two little monkeys bouncing on the bed.....

Verse 5 One little monkeys bouncing on the bed.....

Follow-up Activities

- Provide a variety of fruits for the children to explore. For hygiene's sake make sure that they are separated into a group for squashing, weighting, holding etc., and a group for tasting. Talk about their colour, weight, whether they grow on a tree or a hedge. Do they grow in Northern Ireland? Can you make juice out of them?
- You might even go on to explain that years ago some juice was used as makeup, material dyes etc.
- Make a cocktail by mixing a selection of fruit juices and adding small bits of chopped up fruit. Can the children identify what fruits have been used?
- Put a fruit bowl on the drawing table and see if the children attempt their first 'still life' picture.
- Make a simple bar chart to see which is the class favourite fruit? Just put a picture of each fruit along the bottom of the page and ask the children to put a mark/tick/block/photo or similar against their favourite. The winning fruit will be clear for all to see.
- Make fruit shapes with playdough. The children can go on to 'bake' and paint the dough so that they can then have a fruit shop.
- Look at raw foods. Are raw vegetables as nice as raw fruit? Are raw things hard or soft? What happens if they are cooked?
- Put a pile of bricks or counters on the table to represent Digger's pile of blackberries – decide how many is appropriate in advance. If the number of children playing each take one 'blackberry' – how many are left? If they each take two?

(Judith McVeigh)

