

# Nursery Rhymes and Songs to Help Counting

*To rote count to 10:*

## **Catching a Fish**

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, I caught a fish alive.  
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, I let it go again.  
Why did I let it go?  
Because it bit my finger so!  
What finger did it bite?  
The little one on the right.

*To model 1:*

## **Jack Be Nimble**

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick.  
Jack jump over the candlestick.

*To Model 2:*

## **Jack and Jill**

Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and broke his crown  
And Jill came tumbling after.

*To Model 3:*

## **Hippity Hop**

Hippity hop the candy shop  
To buy three sticks of candy.  
One for you and one for me  
And one for sister Mandy.

*To Model 4:*

## **Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes**

Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes  
Knees and toes  
Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes  
Knees and toes  
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose  
Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes  
Knees and toes.

*To Model 5:*

## **Hive of Bees**

Here is the beehive.  
Where are the bees?  
Hidden inside where nobody sees.  
Now they come creeping  
Out of the hive—1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

*To Model 0 by Counting Back From 5:*

## **Five Little Ducks**

Five little ducks went out to play,  
Over the meadow and far away.  
Mother Duck called, “Quack, quack, quack,  
quack.”  
Four little ducks came running back.

[Repeat verses until no little ducks come back. Then sing]

No little ducks went out to play,  
Over the meadow and far away.  
Mother Duck called, “QUACK, QUACK,  
QUACK, QUACK.”  
Five little ducks came running back.

*To Practice Creating Sets of Up to Five  
Items:*

**If You're Happy**

If you're happy and you know it, clap [two]  
times,

If you're happy and you know it, clap [two]  
times,

If you're happy and you know it, your face  
will surely show it,

If you're happy and you know it, clap [two]  
times,

[In subsequent verses, replace the number  
with one, three, four, or five, and the action  
with other motions such as tap your head,  
stamp your feet, touch your nose, and so on.]