

Dads & Kids Book Club
Mouse Count
Session Outline

Story Related Outcomes for Dads:

1. Dads will be able to use everyday experiences and activities to help young children learn math concepts.
2. Dads will understand how children's books can introduce math concepts.

Story Related Outcomes for Children:

1. Children will be introduced to math concepts through a book.
2. Children will practice counting skills.

Schedule of Activities

Warm-in Time (10 minutes)

- Welcome, name-tags

Group Time/Story Reading (20 minutes)

- Introductions
- Counting activities – count a variety of items, like the number of children, adults, eyes, fingers, etc.
- Introduce and Read the Book – *Mouse Count*

Dads & Kids Activity Time (30 minutes)

- Art: Golf ball in a bottle painting
- Art: Stamper easel art
- Dramatic Play: Farmers' Market
- Math: Counting and number books
- Math: Number and counting puzzles at math table

Dad's Discussion Time (25 minutes)

1. Parent Session for Dads
 - See Parent Session Plan
 - Hand out books and tip sheet for *Mouse Count*
2. Early Childhood Session for Children
 - Children continue to work on projects – snack, art, etc.
 - Group story – retell the story and play counting games

Closing (5 minutes)

- Thank yous, reminder for next session, goodbye

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Tips for Reading

Helping your child to enjoy the story

1. Read the story a couple of times to become familiar with the words and the rhythm of the story.
2. Use different voices for the mice and snake.
3. Counting is an important part of this story. Emphasize the numbers and read them slowly.
4. Let your child point to the mice as you count them, or count them together.
5. When reading the part of the story where the mice escape, rock your body side to side as if you are in the bottle trying to escape. Tip over when the jar tips.

Helping your child to understand the story

6. Talk about why the mice needed to be careful to watch for snakes.
7. Ask questions about the story:

Why did the snake want to catch the mice?

What happened when the mice fell asleep?

How did the mice trick the snake? How did they escape from the jar?
8. Help your children think of ways the mice could stay safe.
9. Retell the mouse count story at home with props: a sock for the snake, cotton balls for mice, a rock and an empty plastic jar (a peanut butter jar would work well).

Helping your child to learn new words

10. Your child will probably know all the words in this book, but possible new words could be meadow, jar, and uncounted. Explain those words to your child, if needed.

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Parent Session

Ice-Breaker/Introductions

- What was one thing you liked about the book?

Story Sharing – discuss the book

- Hand out books and recap the story - a counting book with a story of ten mice outsmarting and escaping from a hungry snake.
- What math concepts could children explore in this book?
 - counting
 - sorting
 - alike/different
 - in/out
 - small/large
- While this is a counting book, you could also discuss how animals hunt and kill other animals for food.

Story Reading

- What strategies did you notice the story reader using to get the children involved?
- How did the strategies work with your child?
- How could you incorporate questions into this book?
 - How many mice are there?
 - How are they different/alike?
 - How many are there of each color?
 - Which is larger - the mice or the snake?
- Distribute “Tips for Reading *Mouse Count*” and ask for comments

Closure

- Come up with some fun counting games with your child while doing normal activities, like when driving, having family meals, on errands, etc.
- Have fun reading this book to your child.

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Materials List

Art - Golf balls in a bottle painting-Place the paper on the inside of the plastic bottle. Roll of the golf balls in the tempera paint and then place in the bottle. Shake the bottle to create a painting.

- 3 large plastic bottles and lids (animal crackers and pretzels come packaged in these).
- 6 golf balls
- 3-4 colors of tempera paint
- Paper for painting

Art Easel-Stamping

- Paper precut into a bottle shape
- Stamp pads
- Stampers depicting things you might catch and put in a bottle, frogs, mice, butterflies, spiders, caterpillars, etc.

Math

- Number and counting games

Literacy

- Number and counting books
- Props to act out *Mouse Count* story: empty bottle, 10 plastic mice, stuffed toy snake, rock

Dramatic Play - Farmer's Market

- Plastic and real fruit and vegetables
- Cash registers
- Play money
- Paper bags
- Grocery carts