

Five Little Turkeys

(Tune: Five Little Ducks)

A twist on the classic tune "Five Little Ducks" turns this counting song into a perfect activity for fall. As children count backward, even the youngest child's math skills will advance from rote memorization of numbers to actual comprehension.

What They Learn: Counting backward, one to one correspondence, singing in a group and sign language

What You Need:

- Felt Board
- Turkeys laminated
- Recording of Song (Teacher Practice)

What To Do:

- Have the children count the turkeys on the felt board together. As they, "how many turkeys are there?" This helps them understand the total number of turkeys.
- Teach the sign language for turkey: The sign for "turkey" is done by holding a "Q" under, on, or near your chin. Wiggle it a couple times as if it were a "wattle," the reddish thing under a turkey's neck.
- As you sing each verse, take one turkey away at the end until there are none left.
- As the song suggests, bring all the turkeys back for the last verse.

Extension

Add a dramatic effect to the game by have 5 children play the part of the turkey and one child be the mother. This is a great way to make the learning even more meaningful as they act out the song!

Lyrics:

Five little turkeys went out one day
(Hold up five fingers)
Over the hills and far away
(Wave bye-bye)
Mother turkey said "Gobble, gobble, gobble,
gobble"
But only four little turkeys came back.
(Hold up four fingers)

Note: Continue counting backwards until you

Last Verse:

Sad mother turkey went out one day...
(Sing it sadly and slowly)
Over the hills and far away.
Mother turkey said "GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
GOBBLE! GOBBLE!"
And all five turkeys came back, back, back.
(Wave hand with all five fingers!)

Print, cut out, laminate, then place on popsicle sticks or add velcro and use on the felt board.

