

# “This Old Man”

Looking for a new way to introduce your youngsters to numbers? Try these extensions to the classic song “This Old Man.” With a knickknack paddy wack and some doggie bones, counting skills will roll on home!

*ideas by Eva Bareis*

## Flip, Flop

To prepare for this group activity, duplicate the patterns on pages 4 and 5. If desired, use a photocopier to enlarge each pattern. Color the patterns and then cut out each one. Glue each pattern onto a piece of tagboard; then program the back of each one with the corresponding numeral. For example, write the numeral 1 on the back of the thumb pattern.

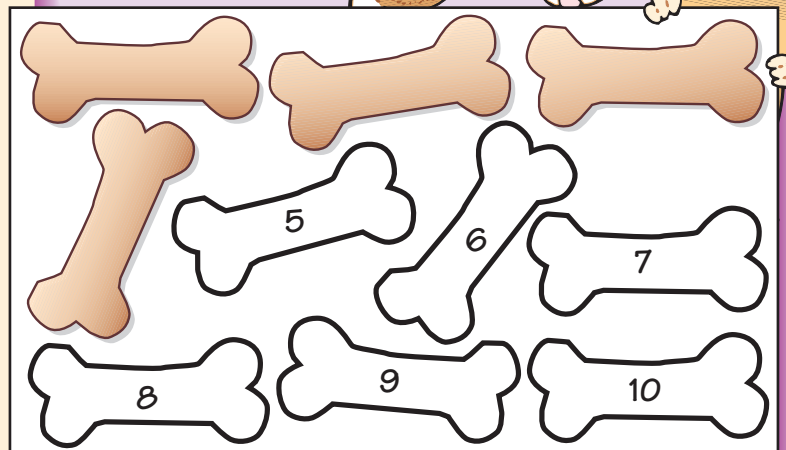
After teaching youngsters the song, use the cards to cue them while singing. Show the numeral side of the card and then flip the card to show the illustration. As an extension, give each card to a different child. Invite these children to stand in front of the class in numerical order. Sing the song and direct each child to display her number and illustration as they are mentioned in the song. “This old man. He played one...”



## Give the Dog a Bone

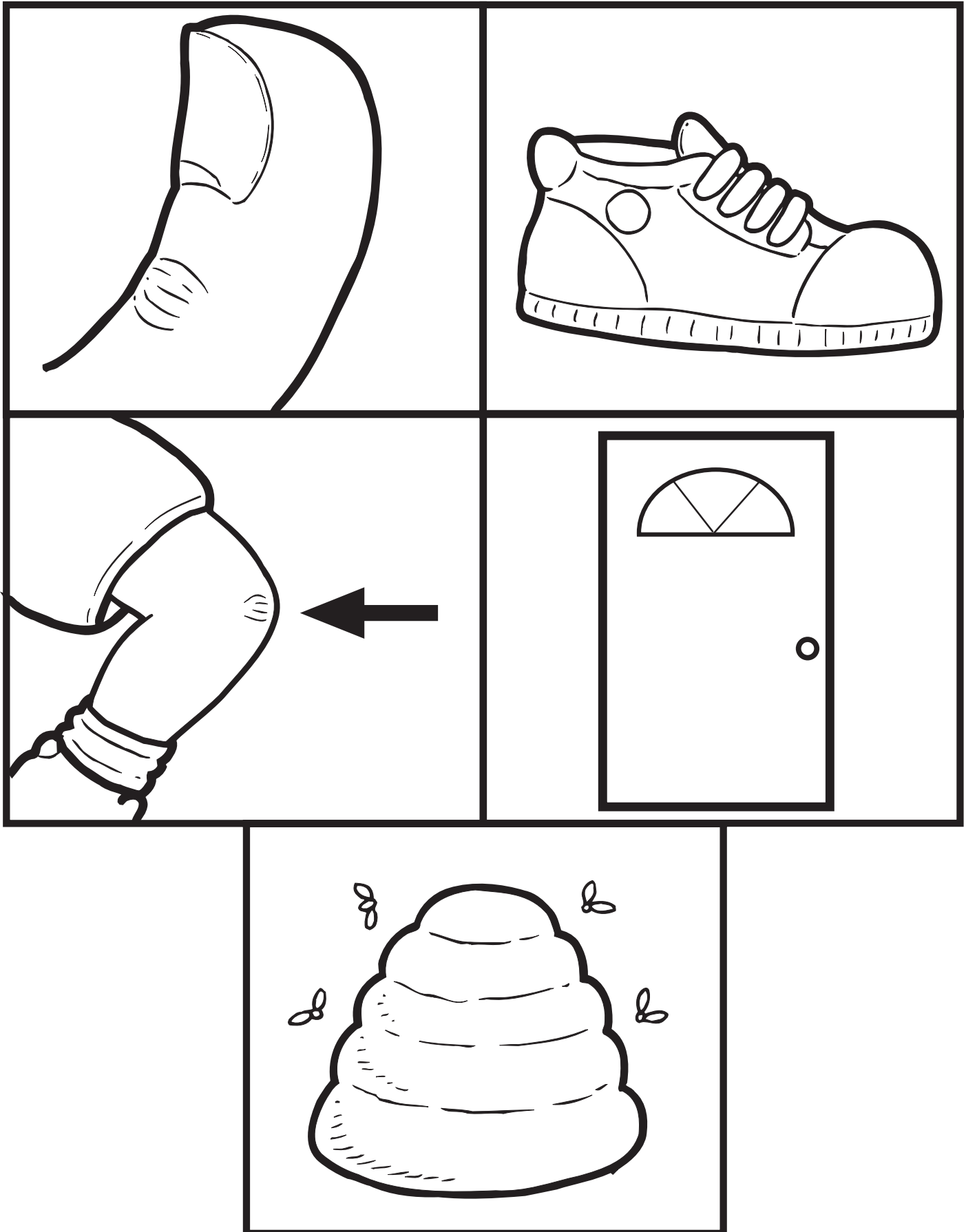
This simple center invites youngsters to bone up on number recognition, counting, and visual discrimination. To prepare, trace ten medium-size dog biscuits onto a piece of poster board. Label each bone outline with a different number from 1 to 10; then set ten dog biscuits near the poster board. If desired, also add a cassette player and a tape of “This Old Man” to the center.

To use the center, a child plays the tape or sings the song. As each number is mentioned in the song, the child places a dog biscuit on the corresponding bone on the chart. No bones about it, this center is a treat!



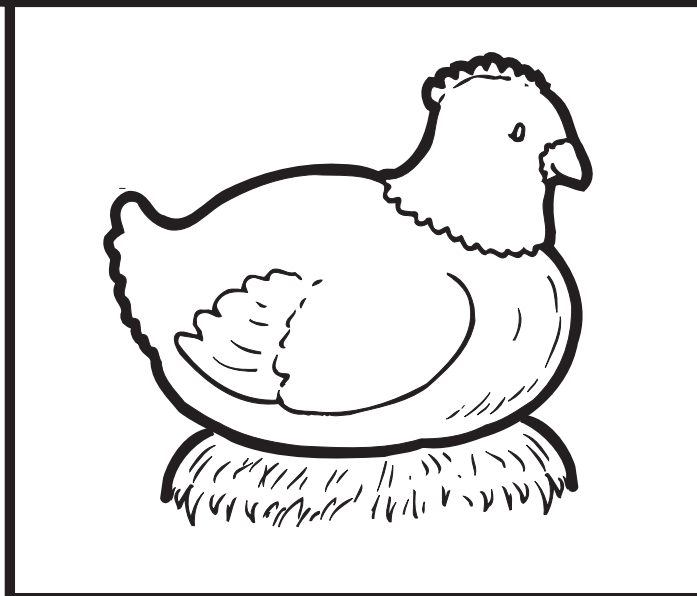
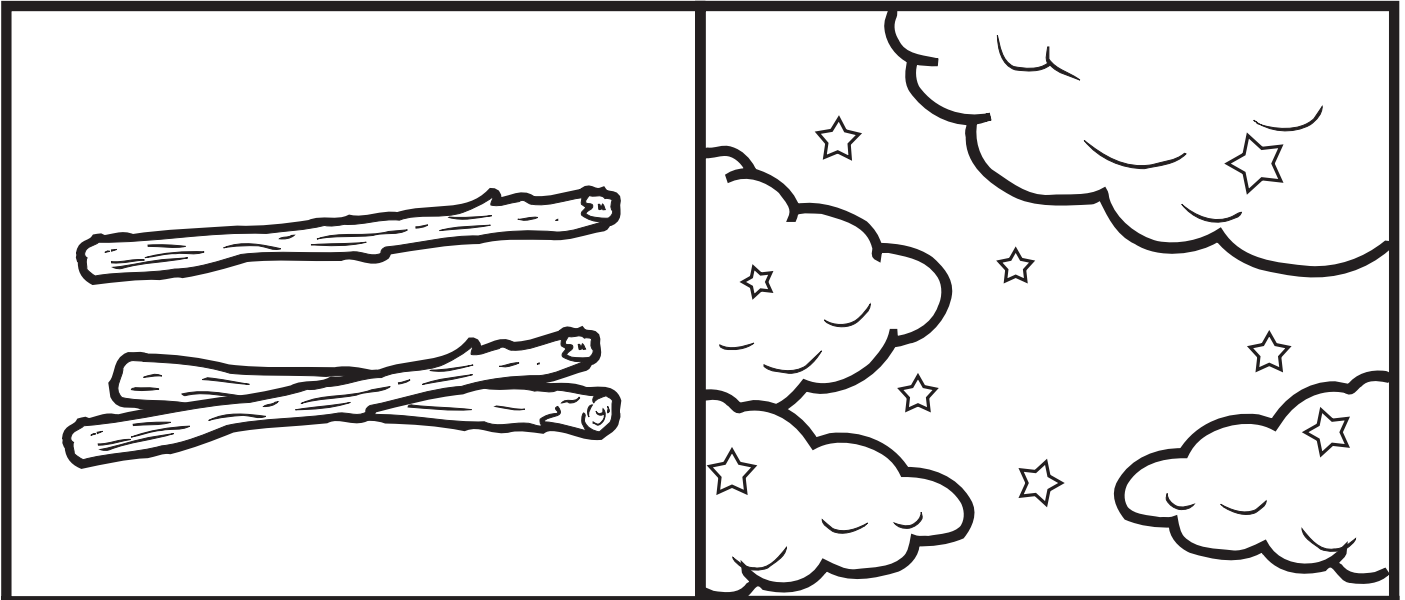
# Patterns

Use with "Flip, Flop" on page 3.



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# Count on

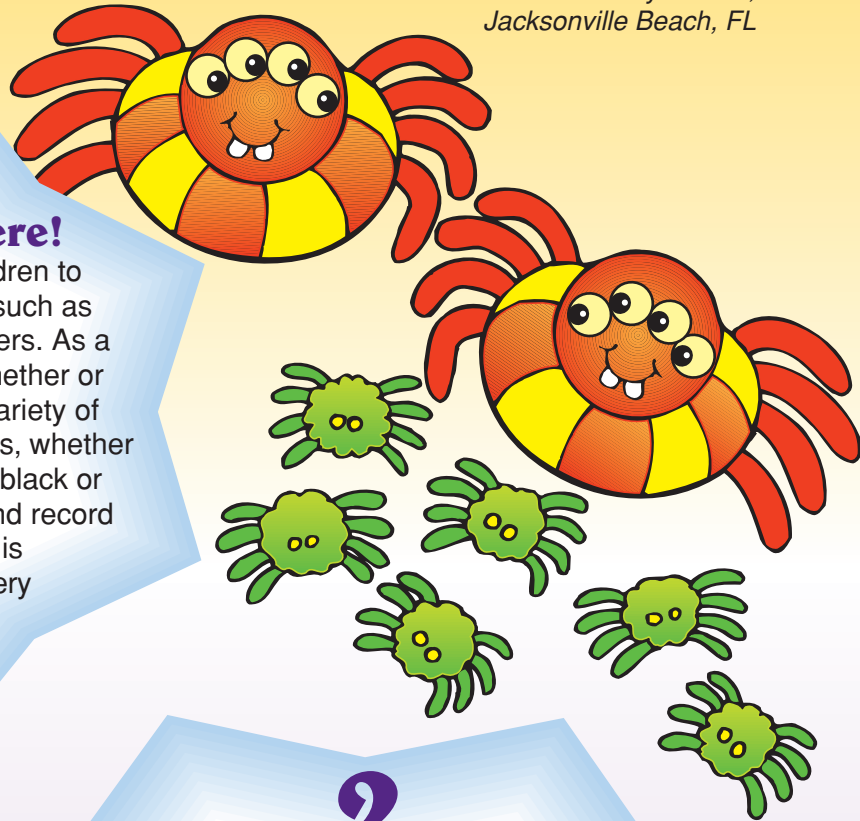
In honor of these eight-legged creatures, we give you eight great ideas to help your little ones get a leg up on math skills. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight!

by dayle timmons—Special Education Inclusion,  
Alimacani Elementary School,  
Jacksonville Beach, FL

## 1

### Spiders, Spiders, Everywhere!

Start off your number madness by asking children to bring to school arachnid toys they already own, such as stuffed or beanbag toys, puppets, or plastic spiders. As a group, count the legs on each spider to verify whether or not it has eight legs. Then sort the spiders in a variety of ways, such as whether or not they have eight legs, whether they are stuffed or plastic, and whether they are black or colorful. Each time you sort the spiders, count and record the number in each group. You can count on this activity to get youngsters caught up in spidery math fun!



## 2

### Arachnid Antics

Invite youngsters to join in this activity to strengthen counting and to introduce the concept of adding one more. Seat your class in a circle (the web). Ask one child to walk around the web as the group chants the poem below. Pause to allow the child to select another spider to join him; then insert that child's name in the poem. Continue until every child has joined the chain of spiders walking in a circle.

[One] black spider went out to play  
On a spiderweb one day.  
He had such enormous fun,  
He asked one more spider to come.  
(Pause)  
Spider [child's name], come out and play.  
Spider [child's name], come out and play.





# Spiders



## Spiders on My Hands

(sung to the tune of "Angels in the Band")

There was one,  
There were two,  
There were three little spiders.  
There were four,  
There were five,  
There were six little spiders.  
There were seven,  
There were eight,  
There were nine little spiders.  
Ten little spiders on my hands!

Oh! Wasn't that a day, spiders on my hands,  
Spiders on my hands, spiders on my hands?  
Wasn't that a day, spiders on my hands?  
Count them one to ten!

### 3

## Spiders Times Ten

Want to fill your classroom with spiders and learning fun? Multiply the number of students you have by ten; then start singing! For every child, use a fine-point permanent marker to draw a simple spider on each of his fingernails. Be sure to have the child count aloud with you as you add eight legs to each spider. When each child has a couple of handfuls of spiders, sing the following song. Have students hold up one finger for each numeral in the verse, then wiggle all their fingers during the chorus. At the end of the day, offer to remove the spiders with fingernail polish remover.

### 4

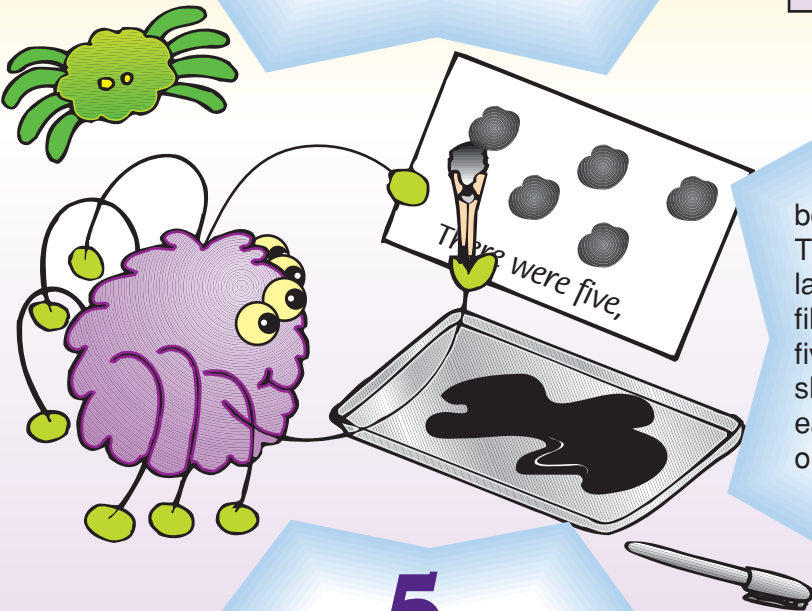
## Weave a Story Web

Youngsters are sure to enjoy making these books, which illustrate the verse of the previous song. To prepare, make spider printers by clipping one large pom-pom to each of several clothespins. Also fill a shallow pan with black paint. For each child, cut five sheets of paper in half; then program each half sheet with a different line of the song as shown. Help each child print the appropriate number of spiders on each of her pages. Then, when the paint is dry, direct the child to use a black marker to add eight legs to every spider. Bind the pages together sequentially. Let's all look at our books and sing along!

### 5

## Colorful Cousins

Encourage youngsters to practice counting at this hands-on *and* legs-on play dough center. Provide a variety of colors of play dough and a number of pipe cleaner halves. Invite little ones at the center to make a play dough spider body, then add eight pipe cleaner legs. Creepy!

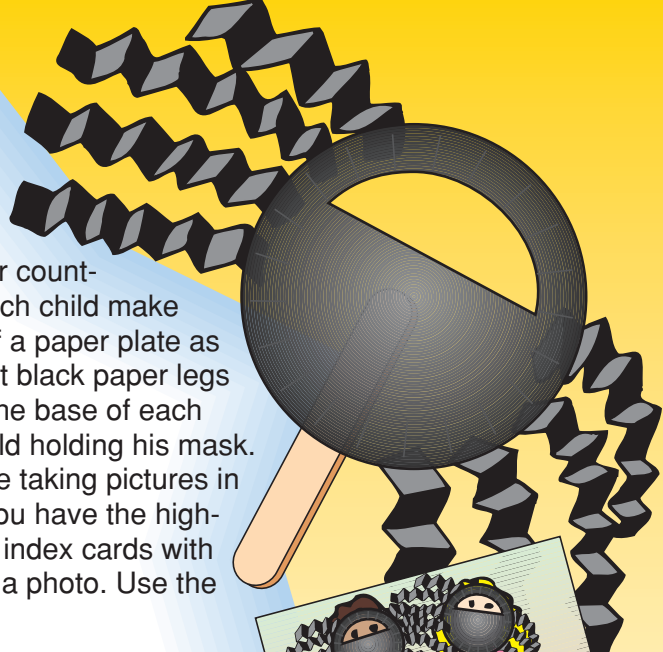


# 6

## Spider Counting Games

Get your students involved in making these spider counting cards for use with several activities. Begin by having each child make a spider mask. To make one, cut a half circle out of the center of a paper plate as shown. Paint the plate black. When the paint is dry, glue on eight black paper legs that have been accordion-folded. If desired, add a craft stick to the base of each mask. When every child has made a mask, take a photo of a child holding his mask. Next, take a picture of two children holding their masks. Continue taking pictures in this manner until every child has been included in a photo and you have the highest number of children desired in a photo at one time. Also label index cards with different numerals from 1 up to the largest number of children in a photo. Use the photos and numeral cards with these games.

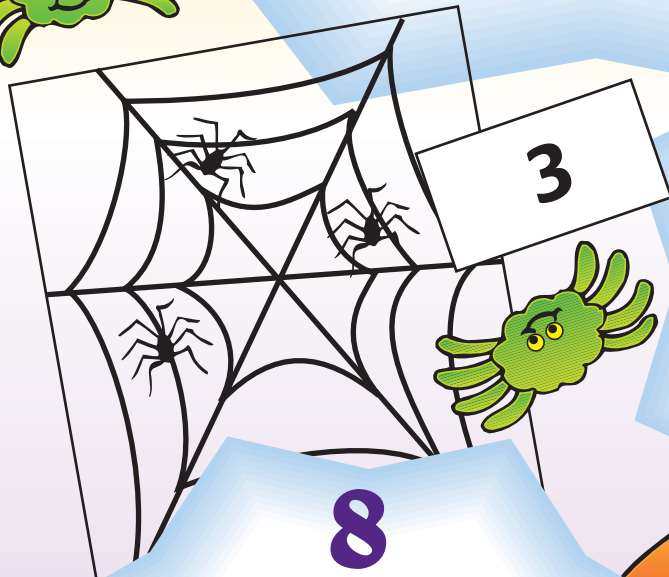
- Encourage children to count the spiders in a photo and then find its matching numeral card.
- Practice arranging the pictures in order from the smallest number of spiders to the largest.
- Play a game of more or less. To play, two players sort the photos facedown into two stacks. Each player takes a card from the top of a stack, then counts the number of spiders shown. The player with the photo showing more spiders keeps both cards. After all of the cards have been chosen, the player with more pictures wins.



# 7

## Web Sight

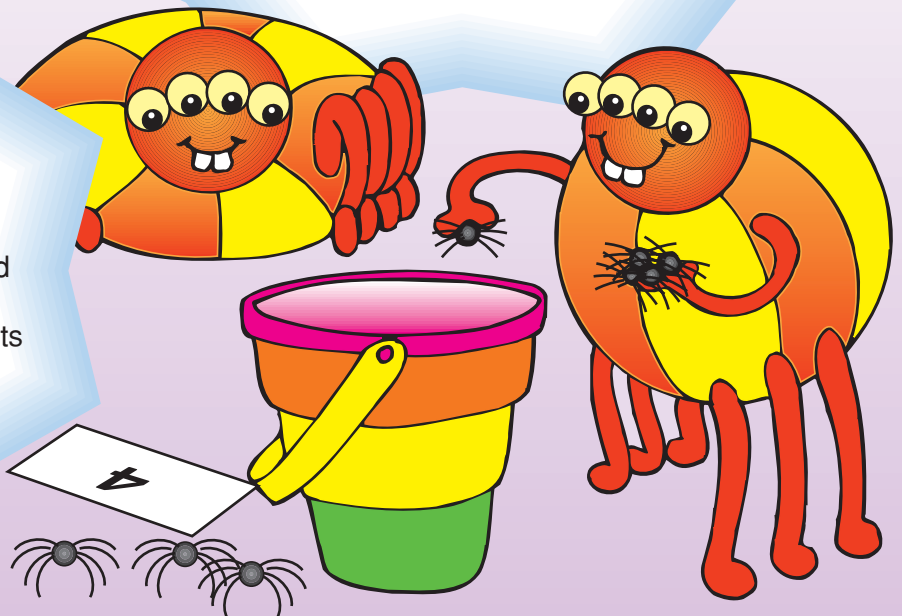
Your little web watchers will love getting caught using this spider's web. On a clear overhead transparency, use a black marker to draw a web. Put the web transparency on an overhead projector that has been placed on the floor. Also provide a number of plastic spiders and numeral cards. Turn on the projector. Encourage a child to select a card and then count the corresponding number of spiders onto the overhead projector. Have him invite friends to count the spiders as they are projected onto the wall.



# 8

## Drop the Spider in the Bucket

To prepare this game, put a bucket, a number of plastic spiders, and a set of numeral cards in a center. To play, a child selects a card and identifies the numeral. He then stands over the bucket and counts as he drops the corresponding number of spiders into it. As a challenge, have a child toss the spiders into the bucket.





# Every Chick Counts

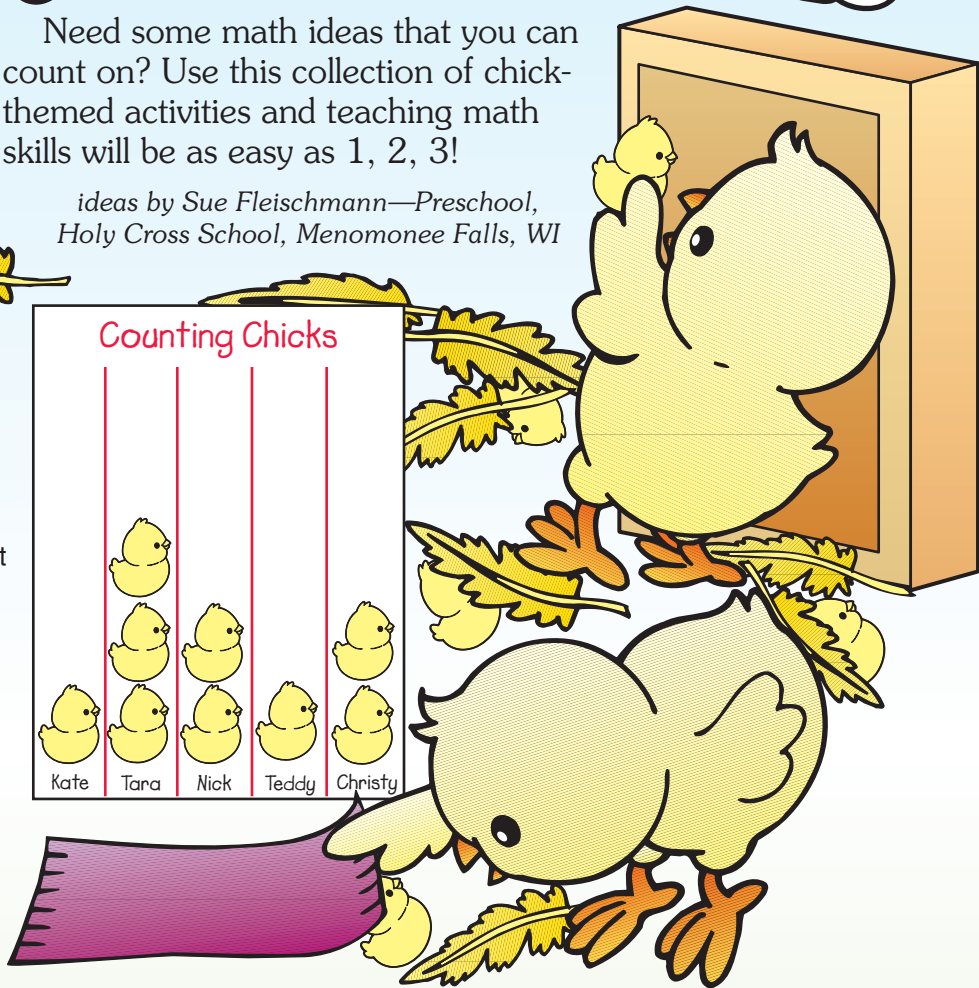
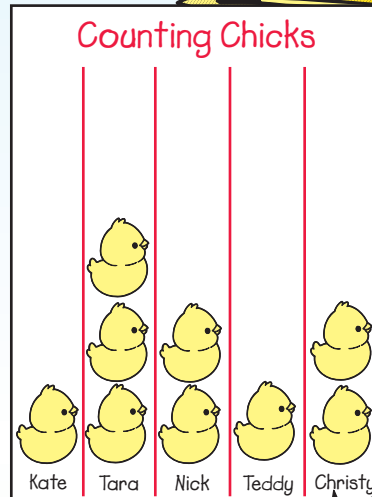


Need some math ideas that you can count on? Use this collection of chick-themed activities and teaching math skills will be as easy as 1, 2, 3!

ideas by Sue Fleischmann—Preschool,  
Holy Cross School, Menomonee Falls, WI

## Here a Chick, There a Chick

Going on a chick hunt is a great way to motivate youngsters and get them counting! In advance, use the pattern on page 14 to make a supply of chick cutouts. Be sure to make enough chicks for each child to have at least one. Then hide the chicks throughout your classroom. For added fun, scatter a few yellow craft feathers around the room. To begin the activity, show students a paper chick and explain that several more chicks are hiding in the classroom. Play some lively music and invite your youngsters to search for the remaining chicks. When the music stops, bring your group together to count each child's chicks. If desired, make a graph similar to the one shown. Have each child place his chicks on the graph. Then use terms such as *more*, *less*, and *equal* to discuss what the graph reveals.



## Bouncing Baby Chicks

A few old tennis balls and a parachute are all you need to put some bounce into a counting lesson. In advance, use paint pens to draw eyes, wings, and a beak on each ball. When the paint is dry, have each child hold the edge of a parachute. Place the tennis ball chicks in the middle of the parachute. Sing the song shown and have youngsters shake the parachute to make the chicks "hop." After singing the last line, invite a child to say a number. Have the class count out loud as they shake the parachute and make the chicks "hop" that many times. Continue the activity until each child has had a chance to say a number.

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

Little baby chicks hop up and down,  
Up and down,  
Up and down.  
Little baby chicks hop up and down.  
How many times?

