Counting Poem

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Cognitive, Language and Literacy

What You Need:

Nothing

What To Do:

1. Make up a counting poem such as the one below:

   Five plumeria on the tree,
   One blew away and then there were four.
   Four plumeria on the tree,
   One blew away and then there were three.
   Three plumeria on the tree,
   One blew away and then there were two.
   Two plumeria on the tree,
   One blew away and then there was one.
   One plumeria on the tree,
   One blew away and then there were none.

2. Have your child hold up five fingers as you start saying the poem together and put one finger down each time an item goes away, starting with her thumb.

3. When she is familiar with the poem, stop after saying “one blew away” and ask
her how many will be left.

4. Substitute other common items in different settings such as mynah birds on the grass or shells on the beach.

5. Change your poem to add items, such as children joining in a game, ducks swimming in a pond, or airplanes landing in the airport. Have your child start with her fingers curled in a fist and open her hand one finger at a time, each time an item is added, starting with her pinky (littlest finger).