

# Counting Poem

## 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).

## This Helps Your Child:

- use and strengthen small muscles such as facial muscles, fingers, hands, and toes (Physical)
- develop eye-hand coordination (Physical)
- build verbal skills, vocabulary, and use of descriptive language (Language and Literacy)
- increase her observation, listening and understanding skills, and attention span (Language and Literacy)
- learn to ask and answer questions (Language and Literacy)
- develop her creativity and imagination (Cognitive)
- recognize math concepts like numbers, sizes, shapes, sequences, volume, measurement, and time (Cognitive)
- develop early math skills like quantifying, comparing, sorting, grouping, and ordering (Cognitive)
- begin to learn about adding and subtracting (Cognitive)