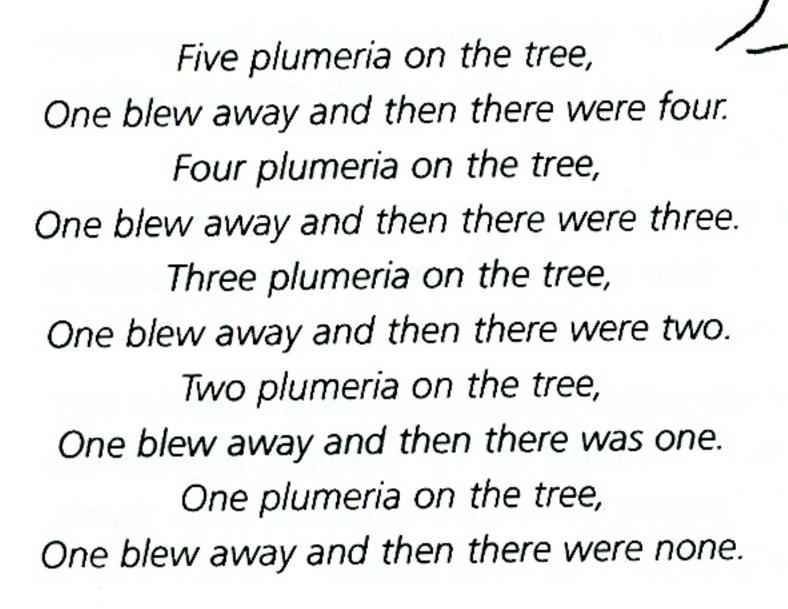
## Counting Poem

## WHAT YOU NEED:

Nothing

## WHAT TO DO:

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



- 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)