

# The Early Years Count **Literacy** Connection



## Let's Count (Sassy)

*Infant/Toddler edition*  
October 2018

### Overview of Book

Let's Count offers a gentle introduction to numbers and counting with many opportunities for conversations and language development. Using the numbers 1 to 10, children can be engaged in multiple ways using flaps and patterns throughout the book.

Genre: Concept based

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Let's Count* to introduce in your classroom:

turtle	seashells
penquin	ants
polka dot	stripes
checkers	

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

#### COR Advantage 1.5

Mathematics  
Item S  
(Number & counting)

Physical Development  
& Health  
Item J  
(Fine motor skills)

Science & Technology  
Item BB  
(Observing & classifying)

### Reading Tips

This book works well in a one-on-one read.

The contrast at the edges of each page help to draw the baby's attention to the images on the page.

If a child brings you the book open to a certain page, just start there—no need to go in order.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

At **Choice Time**, encourage children to count as they engage in materials.

Take the opportunity at **Meal Times** to count the foods presented to children.

For group time, get out a number of balls for the children to explore and count/compare them with the balls in the book.

Getting ready for **Outside Time**, count with the children as they are getting dressed (two shoes, one hat, etc).

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Attach numbers to toy cars as they zoom around the room.

Post numbers around the room and refer to them as you go through your day.

Add ABC/123 wooden blocks for the children to stack.

Put *Let's Count* on display in the book area so the children can easily find it on their own.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *this book*:

What do you think is under the flap?

What do you have two of?

What do you like to count?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

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### **@ Home**

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share Sassy's *Let's Count* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Sassy's *Let's Count* provides a great reminder that you can talk with your child about math at any time of the day wherever you are. Count as you put items into the grocery bag; count the steps up to your apartment; count the buttons on your shirt as you get dressed; count the members in your family; count fingers and toes, teddy bears and blocks, Cheerios on a spoon, and pretzels in a row. Count pushes on a swing. Count freckles and "ouchies." Count pinecones; count colors in a picture. Count doors and windows... just not all in the same day!