

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!

Written by
John Micklos, Jr.
Illustrated by Clive
McFarland

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Count to ten then back again! A tree starts out in spring gaining leaves—one, two, three... then goes through the cycle of seasons in the company of a young boy and all the animals that live in the tree.

Genre: Concept based (numbers)/Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!* to introduce in your classroom:

sprung	chilly
swirl	drifting
sway	frosty
breezy	crumpled

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

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N
(Phonological awareness)

Mathematics
Item S
(Numbers and counting)

Science and
Technology
Item BB
(Observing and
classifying)

Reading Tips

Read with a slow and steady pace to give time to point out the leaves and to linger on the rhymes in the text.

As the seasons change, ask, "What happened to the tree?" or, "What is different on this page?"

When the text says, "Count with me!" touch and count the leaves slowly with the children.

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.

Provide rakes and shovels at **Outside Time**.

Pretend to be a leaf and act out the movements described in the text at **Group Times**. Examples include swaying, drifting, raking, climbing, reach to "touch" the sky, and swirling. Count to ten for every child who wants a turn to lead the group.

Choose an animal from the story to move like during **transitions**.

Around the Room

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

Have leaves in the **Sand and Water Table**.

Place a variety of open-ended materials in the **Toy Area** for children to count, sort, or put into sets. For example leaves, twigs, counting bears, and/or wooden beads.

Put *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!* 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 *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!*:

- Why are the animals and insects in and near the tree?
- How did the hole in the tree get there?
- How does the tree know to sprout new leaves every year?
- Have you ever climbed a tree? Can you tell us about it?

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

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
[@famconnsjc](https://www.facebook.com/famconnsjc)

phone—
574-237-9740

@ 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 *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Young children love counting everything! In *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me!* there are not only leaves, but also insects, birds and flowers on the pages to count. If there is a tree near where you live, you and your child can observe it for changes throughout the year. Who's living in that tree? Are any birds in it today? Have the leaves changed color? If it has dropped leaves, count and collect ten. Are they the same or different than the leaves in the story? With this book, there are many opportunities on each page to wonder out loud and have real conversations together.