

Children's picture books that teach mathematics concepts

Picture books are frequently requested by teachers and parents as a way to introduce children to mathematical concepts in a meaningful and applicable way. These books are recommended for children aged 4 - 8.

- [Addition](#)
 - [Division](#)
 - [Geometry](#)
 - [Multiplication](#)
 - [Size](#)
 - [Time](#)
- [Counting](#)
 - [Even and Odd Numbers](#)
 - [Measurement](#)
 - [Ordinal Numbers](#)
 - [Subtraction](#)
 - [Other Concepts](#)

Addition

[365 Penguins](#) by Jean-Luc Fromental and Joelle Jolivet

When a box containing a penguin arrives anonymously on New Year's Day, a family of four is puzzled, but as they continue to receive one penguin each day their problems--and food budget, and storage issues--are multiplied.

[The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins](#) by Dr. Seuss

Bartholomew really wants to take off his hat to the King of Didd... but how? And how many hats will he end up with?

[The Great Pet Sale](#) by Mick Inkpen

Attracted by a sale at the pet store, a boy tries to decide which animal to buy.

[Hardworking Puppies](#) by Lynn Reiser

One by one, ten energetic puppies find important jobs as dogs who help people in different ways, including by pulling sleds and saving swimmers.

[Leaping Lizards](#) by Stuart Murphy

Learn to count by 5s and 10s by counting the lizards as they arrive for a show. It's almost time for the show to begin -- but where are all the lizards? As a frantic snake looks high and low for the performers, they start to arrive, first by fives...

[Safari Park](#) by Stuart Murphy

As five cousins try to decide how to spend their one hundred tickets at the new Safari Park, readers can practice interpreting number sentences to find out how many rides they can go on.

[Uno's Garden](#) by Graeme Base

Uno finds a beautiful place, decides to live there and builds a garden, as the wildlife dwindles and the buildings and inhabitants increase, their progress is charted by multiplication and square root equations along the top of the page. A page at the end explains all the mathematics involved.

Counting

[Five Little Monkeys Play Hide-and-Seek](#) by Eileen Christelow

Five little monkeys try to avoid going to bed by playing hide and seek.

[Follow the line](#) by Laura Ljungkvist

Invites the reader to visit a wide variety of places and count different objects found in each, from fire hydrants in a big city in the morning, through starfish in the ocean during the day, to babies sleeping in a country village at night.

[One Bear at Bedtime](#) by Mick Inkpen

Introduces the numbers one through ten as a little boy describes all the animals he needs to help him get ready for bed.

[One Frog Sang](#) by Shirley Parenteau

Introduces the numbers one through ten as more and more frogs join in the evening song. We count up to 10 and then back down to 1.

[One Gorilla](#) by Atsuko Morozumi

A playful gorilla makes his way through jungles, gardens, and forests full of hidden creatures waiting to be counted.

[One Hundred Days of Cool](#) by Stuart Murphy

Four students arrive on the first day of school looking cool and their teacher challenges them to keep it up as they count down one hundred days to a cool celebration.

[The Shopping Basket](#) by John Birmingham

On his way to the store to get six eggs, five bananas, four apples, three oranges, two doughnuts, and a bag of chips, Steven is waylaid by several animals who demand that he give them his groceries.

[Ten Apples Up On Top](#) by Theo LeSieg

A lion, a dog, and a tiger are having a contest - can they get ten apples piled up on top of their heads? You better believe it! This first counting book works as a teaching tool as well as a funny story.

[The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) by Eric Carle

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food.

Division

[The Doorbell Rang](#) by Pat Hutchins

Each time the doorbell rings, there are more people who have come to share Ma's wonderful cookies.

[Henry's 100 Days of Kindergarten](#) by Nancy Carlson

To celebrate the one hundredth day of kindergarten, each student brings in an example of 100 for show-and-tell.

[The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and The Big Hungry Bear](#) by Audrey and Don Wood

Little Mouse worries that the big, hungry bear will take his freshly picked, ripe, red strawberry for himself. There's only one solution to share it!

[The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!](#) by Mo Willems

Pigeon learns about sharing when a curious duckling keeps asking questions about the hot dog Pigeon has found.

[Safari Park](#) by Stuart Murphy

As five cousins try to decide how to spend their one hundred tickets at the new Safari Park, readers can practice interpreting number sentences to find out how many rides they can go on.

Even and Odd Numbers

[My Even Day](#) by Doris Fisher and Dani Sneed

In this rhyming sequel to *One Odd Day*, the young boy awakens to find that it is another strange day now everything is even, and his mother has two heads! This time, a school field trip to the zoo is dealt with in an odd, but even-handed manner. Includes "For Creative Minds" section with fun facts and number games.

[One Odd Day](#) by Doris Fisher and Dani Sneed

A boy awakens to find everything around him is odd. He has three sleeves on his shirt, and his dog has five legs. Will his odd day end when he goes to bed that night? A great introduction to the concept of odd and even numbers that is supplemented by math teaching games.

Geometry

[The Secret Birthday Message](#) by Eric Carle

By following the instructions in the geometrically coded message, Tim finds his birthday present.

[Mouse Shapes](#) by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Three mice learn about shapes, creativity, and cooperation.

Measurement

[Counting on Frank](#) by Rod Clement

"What if I drew with this ball point pen until it ran out, how long would the line be?" "What if I ran this bath until the room filled up with water, how long would it take?" These are the sort of questions that all kids ask. The difference is that this kid has the answers.

[Jim and the Beanstalk](#) by Raymond Briggs

Jim climbs the beanstalk and discovers the giant needs a little help getting back to his boy-eating ways.

Multiplication

[365 Penguins](#) by Jean-Luc Fromental and Joelle Jolivet

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Ordinal Numbers

[10 Rubber Ducks](#) by Eric Carle

Ten rubber ducks are manufactured and loaded onto a ship, they fall overboard and we see how each is rescued while focussing on their position in the ten, e.g. 1st to 10th.

[20 Hungry Piggies](#) by Trudy Harris

The wolf from "The Three Little Pigs" shows up at a party attended by lots of piggies, but his plans for dinner are disrupted by the pigs from "This Little Piggy Went to Market." Ordinal numbers at to the fore of this book.

Size

[The Bad-Tempered Ladybird](#) by Eric Carle

A grouchy ladybug, looking for a fight, challenges everyone she meets regardless of their size or strength.

[The Blue Balloon](#) by Mick Inkpen

A boy and his dog find a fantastic blue balloon that can be lots of different sizes.

[Hop! Plop!](#) by Corey Schwartz

When mouse and elephant go to the playground together, it seems as if everything they try to play on together gets broken, until they finally find the piece of equipment that is just right for them.

[A House for Birdie](#) by Stuart Murphy

Birdie needs a new house, his friends of various sizes help him look and everyone ends up with a house the right size for them tall, short, thin or wide.

[Just Teenie](#) by Susan Meddaugh

Justine is so small, everyone calls her "Just Teenie," but one day she receives a plant that grows so tall, it gives her a different perspective.

[Tall](#) by Jez Alborough

Illustrations and just a few words depict how various jungle animals help a very little monkey to feel that he is tall.

[Titch](#) by Pat Hutchins

Titch has a sister Mary, who was a bit bigger, and a brother Peter, who was a lot bigger. It seems everything his big brother and sister have is always bigger and better than what Twitch has to play with each day. But then one day Titch discovers that something little can grow very big indeed.

[Watch Out Big Bro's Coming!](#) by Jez Alborough

Terror spreads through the jungle as animals hear the news that rough, tough Big Bro is coming. A crew of animals learns that size is relative.

[Who Sank The Boat?](#) by Pamela Allen

The reader is invited to guess who causes the boat to sink when five animal friends of varying sizes decide to go for a row.

Subtraction

[Dora's Chicks](#) by Julie Sykes

While Dora is out looking for their breakfast all six of her chicks disappear.

[Five Little Monkeys Go Shopping](#) by Eileen Christelow

Five little monkeys go shopping for school clothes with their mama, but in spite of her warnings about not wandering off, things quickly get complicated.

[Hardworking Puppies](#) by Lynn Reiser

One by one, ten energetic puppies find important jobs as dogs who help people in different ways, including by pulling sleds and saving swimmers.

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[Six Chicks](#) by Henrietta Branford

Red Hen has got six lively chicks to settle off to sleep. One by one they fall asleep.

Time

[The Bad-Tempered Ladybird](#) by Eric Carle

A grouchy ladybug, looking for a fight, challenges everyone she meets regardless of their size or strength.

[Cluck O'Clock](#) by Kes Gray

A group of chickens has a full day on the farm, from eating breakfast early in the morning to avoiding a fox late at night.

[Five Minutes Peace](#) by Jill Murphy

Mrs. Large tries to take a peaceful, relaxing bath but her family has other ideas.

[My Grandmother's Clock](#) by Geraldine McCaughrean

Grandma says you can tell time without a clock. You can count seconds by the beating of your heart, an hour is how long it takes the bathwater to go cold, and you know each day is over when your mother kisses you goodnight.

[One Hundred Days of Cool](#) by Stuart Murphy

Four students arrive on the first day of school looking cool and their teacher challenges them to keep it up as they count down one hundred days to a cool celebration.

[What Time is it Mr Crocodile?](#) by Judy Sierra

Mr. Crocodile's timetable to catch and eat some pesky monkeys does not work out and he becomes friends with them instead.

Other Concepts

[Mr Archimedes Bath](#) by Pamela Allen

Mr Archimedes hops in and out of a bath with, variously a kangaroo, goat and wombat, examining the water level each time, and trying to understand why when ALL the friends are in the bath it always overflows.

[Five Creatures](#) by Emily Jenkins

In words and pictures, a girl describes the three humans and two cats that live in her house, and details some of the traits that they share. A great introduction to sets.

[The Doorbell Rang](#) by Pat Hutchins

Each time the doorbell rings, there are more people who have come to share Ma's wonderful cookies. A introduction to fractions.

[Nesta and the Missing Zero](#) by Julie Leibrich

Mr Abacus has lost the number zero and its amazing how much chaos nothing can cause!

[Math Curse](#) by Jon Scieszka

When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse.