

# Five Little Monkeys

counting backwards

**Materials** none

**What to do** Invite the children to recite the following rhyme.

## Five Little Monkeys

*Five little monkeys swinging in a tree, (hold up number of fingers)*

*Teasing Mr. Alligator, (use finger to point and tease)*

*"Can't catch me, (wave finger back and forth)*

*Can't catch me."*

*Along comes Mr. Alligator (make quiet swimming motion with arms as if in water)*

*Quiet as can be (say very quietly)*

*And he snatched that monkey right out of the tree. (make an opening and closing motion with hands)*

*Four little monkeys swinging in the tree...*

*Three little monkeys swinging in the tree...*

*(continue until Mr. Alligator snatches the last of the monkeys from the tree)*

*No little monkeys swinging in the tree,*

*Teasing Mr. Alligator:*

*"Can't catch me."*

*So Mr. Alligator says, "Yum, yum, yum."*

+ Sandy L. Scott, Meridian, ID

# Five Little Owls Counting Poem

counting, subtraction

**Materials** none



## What to do

Invite the children to recite the following original poem, making gestures to dramatize the action of the owls in each stanza.

### Five Little Owls

*Five little owls sitting in a tree.*

*One fell off and bumped his knee.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"No more owls sitting in the tree!"*

*Four little owls sitting in a tree.*

*One saw a mole and then there were three.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"No more owls sitting in the tree!"*

*Three little owls sitting in a tree.*

*One flew away and then there were two.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"Only two more owls to hoot 'WHOOOOO!'"*

*Two little owls sitting in a tree.*

*One went "Achoo!" and flew away for some tea.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"No more owls sitting in the tree!"*

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*One little owl sitting in a tree.*

*He flew up in the sky to see what he could see.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"No more owls sitting in the tree!"*

*Now there are no little owls sitting in the tree.*

*"No little owls!" the mother did sigh.*

*The mother called the doctor and the doctor said,*

*"Let those owls soar way up high."*

## Related books

*Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen

*The Sleepy Owl* by Marcus Pfister

+ Cookie Zingarelli, Columbus, OH