

Activities utilizing the book COUNTING DOWN JAZZY

1: Group movement activity

Materials: Ten small blocks (or five if you want to keep it short)

1. Procedure: Review counting from one to ten.
2. Explain how you are going to count backwards.
3. Introduce and read the story, COUNTING DOWN JAZZY.
4. Review counting backwards.
5. Ask the children to stand in a circle.
6. Place the ten blocks in the center of the circle.
7. Have the children count out loud as you point to each block. After counting, say "Ten little blocks in the middle of the circle. Along came (child's name) and then there were nine.
8. The chosen child will then take a block from the center.
9. Recount the number blocks left in the middle. Repeat until you are down to one block.
10. After the last child is chosen to get the last block, end the activity by saying, "One little block in the middle of the circle. Along came (child's name) and we all took a nap. Have the children all go to their desks and pretend to take a nap.
11. Instead of blocks you can use books, candy, stickers or other tokens the children can keep or save. If you have a larger group, you can ask ten children to sit in the middle of the circle instead of using items.

2: Desk activity

Materials: Small candy like M&M's. 10 index cards per child labeled with the numbers one through ten. (For older children you can write the words "one" "two" etc.) Put out ten pieces of candy.

1. Procedure: Review counting from one to ten and review the digits (or words).
2. Explain how you are going to count backwards.
3. Introduce and read the story, COUNTING DOWN JAZZY.
4. Give each child the cards and have them place them on the desk in order from one to ten. Provide help if needed. Place one candy or item on each card.
5. Read the story again and as you read, when Jazzy comes along, have the children remove or eat an item and the card. (If they cannot read numbers yet, you can do this with just the candy instead of using the cards). Each time Jazzy takes away something, count the number of candy left on the desk. When you get to the end, have students pretend to nap at their desk.

3: Popsicle Stick Puppets for storytime with kids sitting on floor.

Materials: Print and cut out the tiles for the popsicle stick puppets. Optional, color pictures. Fold over and glue to popsicle sticks (or tongue depressors) so that the picture is on two sides.

1. Procedure: Review counting from one to ten and review the digits (or words). Explain how you are going to count backwards.
2. Introduce and read the story, COUNTING DOWN JAZZY.

3. Give each child a set of finger puppets.
4. As you read the story again, the children can remove the corresponding puppet from their pile. Recount the puppets after one has been removed.

4: Hand puppets

Materials: Felt board or metal board with magnets. Five to ten pictures of something that can be placed on the felt or metal board (five cupcakes, five different objects, your choice).

Print the Jazzy hand puppets. Cut out on dotted line and fold, use clear packing tape to secure the sides and sort of “lamine” them. The children can put one over their fingertips of one hand.

1. Read COUNTING DOWN JAZZY
2. Set up the board with the objects
3. Hand out the finger puppets
4. Count the objects.
5. Have the children move their Jazzy puppets in the air as you say “Along came Jazzy”
6. Either you or a student can remove one of the items from the board.
7. Recount and repeat
8. When you get to the last one, and it is removed, have the student put their Jazzy puppets to sleep in their laps, or the palm of their other hand.



