



Illustrations by J. Harlan Ritchey

Counting-out Rhymes

Counting-out rhymes are simple rhymes used to select teams or a person to be "it" for a game. These short rhymes reinforce phonemic awareness.

Big one, small one
Skinny one, tall one,
Old one, fat one,
I choose *that* one.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
When I choose
It will be *you*.

I asked my mother
What should I do?
My mother said
I should pick *you*.

Icky, bicky, cricky, tricky,
Icky, bicky, boo.
Icky, bicky, cricky, tricky,
Out goes *you*.

I scream, you scream,
We all scream for ice cream.
Who screams the loudest?
Y – O – U.

One potato, two potato,
Three potato, four.
Five potato, six potato,
Seven potato, more.

Engine, engine, number nine
Going down Chicago line,
If the train falls off the track,
Do you want your money back?

Person tapped on the word "back" chooses either yes or no – then that word is spelled out, one letter per person.

Y – E – S spells yes
and you shall have your money back.

Or

N – O spells no
and you do not get your money back.

Bubble gum, bubble gum
in a dish.
How many pieces
do you wish?

Pick a number– then that number is spelled out, one letter per person.

5 f-i-v-e spells 5 and you are it!