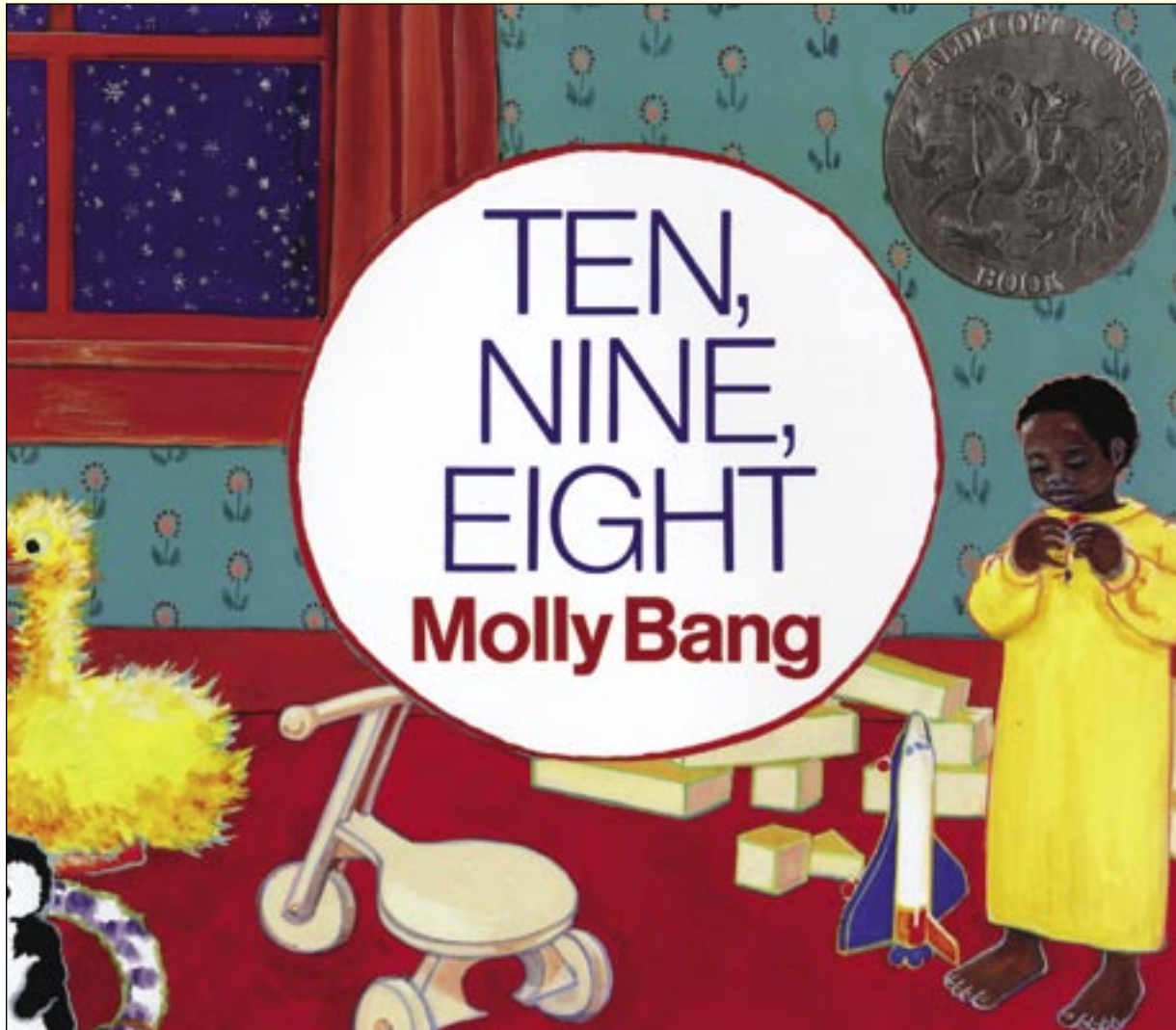


Ten, Nine, Eight

By Molly Bang

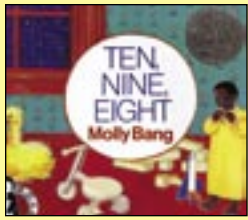
A little girl and her father prepare for bedtime in this counting story.



First Reading

Before you begin reading the story, **set the stage** for enjoying the book with an introduction. Here are some ideas or you could make up your own.

Look at the cover with your child. “What time of day is it? What do you think is going to happen? Do you recognize any of the toys on the cover of the book? Tell me about them.”



Read It Again (and Again) and Start a Conversation

As you read the book, stop and count the items on the page, such as ten small toes and eight square windowpanes.

As you read the book, point to the numbers as they appear on the page. For older children, point to the number and have them identify it.

“What is the girl in the story getting ready to do? How can you tell?”

What is falling outside the window?

Whose tail do you see under the girl’s bed? How can you tell?

What happened to the missing shoe?

What do you think ‘bedtime routine’ means? That’s right, it’s what you do to get ready for bed each night. What do you do before you go to bed? How is that the same or different from the story?”

Play With Language

Game: Rhyming Game

Play the “Name Game” with your child’s name. “Sue rhymes with blue” or “Kayla rhymes with bayla.” Nonsense words are OK for rhyming. Kids love to hear their name in games.

Game: Deletion Games

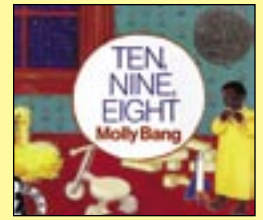
Create new words together by dropping the first sound or consonant of a familiar word.

For example,

“My word is CAT. What is my word? That’s right, it’s CAT.”

Then say, “Take the “C” sound off cat. What do you have? That’s right, AT.”

When playing such games, try to use simple, familiar words such as cat, dot, cup, pop, bed, man, etc.



Rhymes

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

(Suit your actions to the words.)

1, 2 Buckle my shoe.

3, 4 Knock at the door.

5, 6 Pick up sticks.

7, 8 Lay them straight.

9, 10 A big fat hen.

One, Two, Three, Four, Five

One, two, three, four, five,

Once I caught a fish alive.

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,

Then I let it go again.

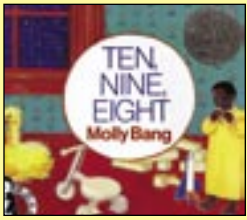
Why did you let it go?

Because it bit my finger so.

Which finger did it bite?

This little finger on the right.





Other Activities To Do Together

Look around your child's room for things to count, as in the story.

Have your child count from one to ten and then backwards from ten down to one.

At snack time have your child count his snacks, such as pretzels or crackers.

Cut numbers out of a variety of materials such as felt or sandpaper and have your child trace them with his hand.

“Write” numbers with a flashlight.

If you have access to a sandbox, your child can make number shapes in the sand using his finger or some other object such as a pencil or chopstick.

Make number shapes out of clay.

Listen to the song *Five Little Ducks* on the CD *Raffi in Concert with the Rise and Shine Band*.

Let your child make a number shape out of his body or his hands. Guess the number.

Encourage your child to play with number magnets on the refrigerator.

At the end of the day, have your child review all of the fun things that happened during the day. You can ask your child questions such as “Do you remember what you ate for breakfast?” or “What did you do after your nap?” This will encourage your child to think in sequence as well as improve his narrative skills. Plus, it will help to end the day on a positive note.

Have your child draw pictures or glue pictures cut from magazines onto paper. Have him tell a story about the picture as you write what he says. When the story is complete, take turns “reading” the story to each other. Collect your child's stories and put them into a book that can be looked at again and again.

More Books About Counting and Bedtime

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle