

## Learning Experience

### Counting Toes

#### Educational Purpose - Why is this important for children's learning?

This simple experience can easily be incorporated into routine times, such as nappy changing and bath times. Nursery rhyme can also be added to sing while counting numbers. Becoming familiar with the concept of counting is beneficial for developing early numeracy skills. Counting something familiar to babies, such as our toes or fingers also helps them learn more about their bodies.

#### Resources needed

- None!

#### Description of what to do including prompts for questions to ask children

1. Start with touching your baby's feet and toes, preferably as they are lying on their backs or sitting up securely.
2. Rub the toes and touch them individually to invite your child to feel the touches. 'What have you got on your feet?' 'What are these on your feet?' Use different questions to invite them to focus on their feet and toes.
3. Start counting one by one slowly while you touch their toes individually. Show them as you do it and look at them regularly with a smile to connect with them.
4. Repeat this experience or add a song as you repeat, such as 'this little piggy' or '1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive'.

#### Possible extension

- Count different items around your baby, such as the blocks they are stacking or the animals on a picture.
- Sing different number songs.
- Repetition is important for children's learning so repeat this and watch how your baby responds each time.