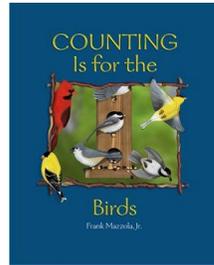


**Virtual at Home Storytime**  
**Presented by Ms. Wendy**



Check out the book *Counting is for the Birds* by Frank Mazzola Jr. on [Hoopla](#). Each day, Monday through Friday, read the book with your child. After reading the book, complete the provided activities.

Repetition is important for strengthening neural pathways in the brain, building language skills, developing a robust vocabulary, and allows children to take an active part in the reading process through memorization and prediction.

**Monday**-Sing with your child. Listen to the album [You Are My Little Bird](#) by Elizabeth Mitchell with your child. Most of the songs are nature themed, with numerous songs about birds. Enjoy the time together, dance & sing along! If you've attended the Parent Child Workshop or a Free Play Friday/Saturday at RHPL, you might recognize the music! Learn the words and beat to the last song, [Grassy Grass, Grass](#), tap your legs to the beat and sing along.

**Grassy Grass Grass**  
**(written by: Woody Guthrie)**

Grassy grass grass  
Tree tree tree  
Leafy leaf leaf  
Onie two three  
Birdy birdy bird  
Fly fly fly  
Nesty nest nest  
High high high  
Cloudy cloud cloud  
Windy wind wind  
Rainy rain rain  
Muddy mud mud  
Doggie dog dog  
Runny run run  
Quickie quick quick  
Homey home home  
Beddy bed bed  
Sheety sheet sheet  
Sleepy sleep sleep  
Dreamy dream dream  
Dancie dance dance  
Singy sing sing  
Grow grow grow  
Biggy big big

**Tuesday**-Write with your child. Make [toilet paper tube binoculars](#) and a [birding journal](#) with your child. Once finished, grab your binoculars, birding journal, and crayons or markers, and take a bird walk around your neighborhood (please make sure to practice safe social distancing). Stop and sit each time you see a bird, encourage your child to make observations. Have your child draw the birds they see. Write down your child's observations on the same page as the drawing. Connecting the written word to oral language and pictures is an important pre-reading skill.

**Wednesday**-Read with your child. While reading the book today, encourage your child to pay special attention to the details of each new bird that arrives at the feeder. Point out body and beak shape, color, and special characteristics of the birds you might learn in the fine print on the bottom of each page. Look over the last page of the book, noting the characteristics of each bird-color, size, beaks, etc. Look back through the book and see if your child can find each bird, repeat the bird's name.

**Thursday**-Play with your child. Grab your Play Doh and make birds with your child. Get creative and make many different kinds of birds. If you need inspiration, check out this [video](#). Make a birdfeeder. Make your own bugs and seeds for your birds to feed on. Make a cat and a squirrel similar to the cat and squirrel in the book. Play with your new creations, acting out the book or any other story your child comes up with. Follow your child's lead, no matter how silly their story may seem.

**Friday**-Talk with your child. Take a walk at the local park (please make sure to practice safe social distancing), talking with your child about the birds you see on the walk. Bring along the homemade binoculars you & your child made earlier in the week to look for birds. Make observations about the birds you see and encourage your child to do the same. See if your child can identify any of the birds based on the birds you've both learned about in *Counting is for the Birds*. Example: "Oh, look, I see a blue bird with white spots on its tail and wings and a black stripe around its neck! I wonder what type of bird that is? Do you remember reading about a bird that looks similar? What was that bird called?" Make sure to keep count of how many different types of birds you find on your walk!