

OVER IN THE MEADOW

Over in the Meadow

by John Lagstaff, illustrated by Feodor Rojankovsky (Harcourt)

Themes: Counting/Animals/Music

Grade Level: PreK-2

Length: 9 minutes, iconographic

Summary

Over in the Meadow is a lively counting story set to music about mother animals who instruct their babies to perform various activities. As the story progresses, the number of baby animals increases. The story ends with a mother rabbit instructing her ten bunnies to hop about. The end offers children the opportunity to sing "Over in the Meadow" once again with the story's narrator. Children will enjoy, and easily relate to this up-beat and comforting tale of animals caring for their young.

Objectives

- Children will learn about mother and baby animals
- Children will gain skill in counting
- Children will enjoy a story set to music

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *Over in the Meadow* with children. Talk with children about animals that live in grasslands. Discuss the physical characteristics of these animals, their survival behaviors, and the ways they care for their young. Provide posters, illustrations, and photos of grassland animals that children can examine.

Sing the song "Over in the Meadow" with children. Then divide the class into ten groups. The first group will be a group of two, representing the mother and baby turtle, the second group will be a group of three, representing the mother and two baby foxes, etc. Have the groups of children stand in a horizontal line across the classroom. As you sing the verses of the song, have children representing the animals which are the subjects of those verses jump forward.

After Viewing Activities

Provide band instruments that children can use to accompany themselves to the tune of "Over in the Meadow". Then print the numerals one through ten on the chalkboard. As children play their instruments and sing "Over in the Meadow" have them stand beside each numeral on the chalkboard as it is mentioned in the song.

Have children work together to create a large meadowland poster. Encourage them to include as many animals as they can recall from the story *Over in the Meadow*. As children work, talk about the ways different weather conditions might affect the animals and what they might do for protection.

Talk with children about the ways animals use camouflage to protect themselves from their enemies. Then try this activity to help children comprehend the concept of camouflage. Paint colorful stripes on a large sheet of kraft paper. Tape the kraft paper to a classroom wall. Then use the same colors of paint to paint stripes on a large white sheet. Cut a hole in

the sheet so that children can take turns wearing it and standing in front of the kraft paper. As children stand in front of the kraft paper, their classmates will see just how camouflage works!

Other book based films and videos about counting/animals are available from Weston Woods. These include:

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