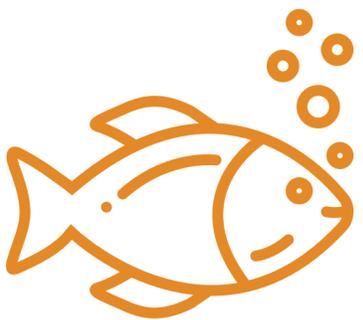
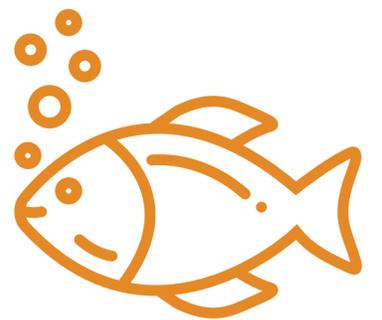




**One, two, three, four, five,**



**Once I caught a fish alive**



**Six, seven, eight, nine, ten, then I let him  
go again,**

**Why did you let him go?**

**Because he bit my finger so- ouch!**

**Which finger did he bite?**

**This little finger on my right**



**Don't forget to kiss the  
little finger at the end**



**"One two three four five (1 2 3 4 5)" is an educational rhyme aiming to teach children to count. The title of "one two three four five (1 2 3 4 5)" is often changed to "Once I caught a fish alive". The earliest traceable publication is 1888 and has therefore been passed on through the generations for 127 years now. I wonder how many children it has taught to count. Can you help to add to this number? This is a lovely song to demonstrate different actions and can be brought to life with some additional expressions such as 'ouch!' to help to explain the story.**

**You could sing the song like this with your baby or small toddler**

**This is a great song for encouraging children to feel the beat through their bodies as they bounce to the song. Sit on the floor with your baby on your knee facing you and bounce to the beat to the clapping and 1,2,3,4,5. As you 'catch a fish' lift baby up on knees and drop them down with a bump as you 'let the fish go'. Continue bouncing, then nip or nibble the baby's fingers and call out 'ouch' and shake the baby's hand. Continue bouncing, then kiss the baby's little finger at the end of the song.**

**You could try these singing games with older toddlers**

**As a hand rhyme. Start by clapping and counting to 5 for a few times. As you start to sing the song, show the numbers on your fingers, holding up 1 then 2 then 3 fingers etc. As you 'catch the fish' make your hand swim like a fish. Show 6, then 7 then 8 etc fingers for counting to 10 and then 'swim your hand' behind your back as you let the fish go. Open your hands for 'why' or fold your hands in a grumpy voice for 'why'. Shake your finger on the word 'ouch'. Open hands for 'which' and show your right little finger and kiss it better.**

**Another singing game. Children and adults hold hands in a circle with adults in-between a child. The circle moves round and you stay to the counting. The children can be swung into the centre of the circle or run in as the fish is caught. This is then repeated and then into the middle as the fish escapes. Stamp round for 'why did you let it go?' and jump on 'ouch'. Walk in tip toeing for which little finger and end up huddling in the middle of the circle kissing own or each other's fingers. You could even try singing the numbers in different languages. A brilliant way for children to discover and be exposed to new sounds and try out different mouth shapes.**

**You could try these musical activities with nursery, reception and year one children**

**With lycra and a toy fish. Put the fish in the middle and bounce as you count. When the fish is caught, lift the lycra in the air then bounce again and fly the fish up off the lycra as it escapes. Bounce the lycra and lift up for 'ouch'. Then rock the lycra side to side in a comforting action and right hand at end to kiss the little finger.**

**The hand rhyme and singing game in section above could also be sung by older children.**

**Clapping. This can be a simple clapping game mixing the hand rhyme and partner clapping together. Either clap and pat for the counting or just pat the other child's hands for the counting and swim the fish in between.**

**Percussion instruments. This is a great song for demonstrating rhythm and stopping and starting. Children can play the rhythm to the different phrases of the song, starting with 1,2,3,4,5. By shaking to the counting they are shaking to the rhythm and not the beat. They can play to the counting and the questions. You could also show a collection of instruments and talk with the children to find different instruments which can be played during the song. What could be used as the fish escapes or for the word 'ouch'?**