



Using Books: “Maisie Goes Camping”

Using everyday language to talk about addition and subtraction



Children often enjoy sharing a book with an adult and then acting out the story.

Adults could provide story props for indoors and outdoors.

Here we focus on using ‘Maisie Goes Camping’ by Lucy Cousins.

The Activity

Read and enjoy the book and discuss any camping experiences.

Re-tell the story with small world characters going into folded card ‘tents’, one at a time. Repeatedly ask, ‘Is there room for one more?’ until children decide its a squeezy squish-squash and characters POP out of the tent one at a time. Add wooden numerals and cards with POP! written on.

Children can act out their own versions with props or with dens made outside.

Describing

Tell me about this picture (with characters going in or popping out of the tent)

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Tell me what is happening. How many are inside now? And now?

Reasoning

How many will fit without a squeezy squish-squash? Why do you think that?

What will happen if another person goes in (out) now? Can you explain why you think that?

How do you know that there will be 6/3/2/1 in the tent? Shall we act it out to check?

Opening out

Play a game with 5 toys: hide some in the tent. One is outside, so how many are inside?

Shut your eyes and imagine: 3 campers inside the tent, one more goes in, how many now?

2 go inside, 3 are outside: how many altogether? Children can check by modeling.

What if ... we have a larger tent? ...we have 2 tents?

Recording

Can you find some numbers to go with your story?

Would you like to do a picture to show how many children are inside and outside the tent?

Can you put something to show how many have gone in /come out?

The Mathematical Journey

Counting

- cardinality - the last number tells you how many there are
- counting for a purpose - to see how many there are

Comparing

- saying a number which is more or less

Number symbols

- reading and matching numerals to amounts, or recording amounts informally

Addition and subtraction

- adding and subtracting one or 2 from small amounts in a practical situation
- talking about and solving practical problems involving addition and subtraction
- using fingers for addition and subtraction calculations
- using number facts e.g. 'I know there's 2 inside because 2 and 2 are 4.'

Problem solving

- modeling a simple addition/subtraction word problem
- checking to make sure of the amount

Development and Variation

- Children could create their own versions of the story and illustrate a group book.
- Use wooden or other numerals and Numicon and to represent what is happening to the number of animals in the tent as they tell the story.
- Make shadow puppets and re-create the story, drawing children's attention to what is happening to the numbers.
- Play the *Box Game* <https://nrich.maths.org/content/id/12745/BoxGame.pdf>
- Watch the animation *5 Friends counting* for number stories with toy characters *Making Numbers* OUP <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk> (PD books)

Other books for mathematical discussions:

Mouse Count by Ellen Stowe Walsh, about a snake collecting mice to eat.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr7qKFnp6bE>

The Sleepover by Catherine Fosnot explores combinations of 8
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL5UTk6XN0A>

The Double Decker Bus by Catherine Fosnot and Nina Uz explores numbers within 10
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EEkcDP2ios>

Resources

'Maisie goes Camping' by Lucy Cousins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9u8r16B5lo>

Small world toys and folded cards to represent tents

Large numerals and "POP!" cards

Outdoor den-making equipment

Pens and whiteboards or clipboards

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