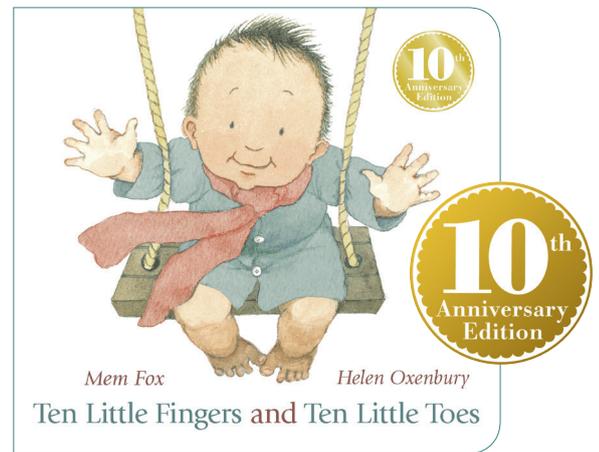


STORYTELLING FUN WITH Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

Mem Fox Helen Oxenbury

This book is gentle and humorous with a contagious rhythm and a warm heart. There is plenty of space for actions and props. Above all, relax, take your time and have fun with it – your guests will have a wonderful time!



9781406377873 • £5.99 • Board Book • 6 months +

9781406319569 • £6.99 • Paperback • 1 year +

THE STORYTELLING SPACE

A cosy enclosed storytelling space will make your guests feel comfortable. Beware of distractions, whether a basket of toys or an interesting chair to crawl under. If there is a window in the room with a view onto the street, aim to have it behind the audience, not behind the storyteller!

BEFORE YOU START

It's nice to interact with the group before the formal start. Welcome people, seat them comfortably. You could ask parents if they'd like to take off their children's socks and shoes because this storytime is all about fingers and toes!

You may find putting the book on a music stand is easier than holding it. Even better, an assistant can sit beside you, hold the book, turn the pages and show it around to the audience. This will leave your hands free for actions and help you keep eye contact.

WARMING UP

Toddlers experience the world through their adult so the key is getting the adults to join in and interact along with their children! Start off with a strong 'hello' and encourage everyone to wave and say hello back. (If you have a 'hello' song, even better!)

Warm everyone up with a joining-in action song, for example *"I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me"* and *"One, two, three-four-five, once I caught a fish alive!"*

You can also play some simple finger and toe games. Try *"This little piggy went to market"* and *"Round and round the garden like a teddy bear"*.



READING THE STORY

Actions

Use as many actions as possible and take your time with each one. e.g.

"There was one little baby who was born far away..."

(hand shading eyes looking into the distance)

"another who was born on the very next day..."

(rock a baby in your arms.)

"...ten little fingers" (say something like *"let's see your fingers everyone!"* and encourage audience to wiggle their fingers)

"...and ten little toes!" (*"let's see your toes! There they are!"*)

Don't forget the ending of the book: *"and three little kisses on the tip of its nose"* is an opportunity for a lovely moment between parent/carer and their children!

Props

Consider a large (but lightweight) eiderdown or blanket. Get it out as you say the line *"another who was wrapped in an eiderdown..."* and wrap it around the children. Take a few minutes to enjoy the cosy feeling.

You can use it again on the line *"another in a tent who was just as nice"*. Get the adults to hold the edges of the blanket to create the roof of a "tent" and take a few minutes to allow the children to stand or explore inside it.

Kids who don't like it

Of course all the above is very good, but no matter how brilliant the book or the storyteller, sometimes a child won't respond. They might be over-tired, hungry or just plain grumpy!

When this happens, it can be good to have an "out" for them. Is there a nearby room or hallway where a noisy child can be taken to calm down so their yells don't disturb everyone else? Often they will quieten down in just a few minutes and they can come back in. (Sometimes they won't, but hey, that's toddlers!)



SAYING GOODBYE

Another joining-in song can be good to finish the storytime. If you have a goodbye song, that's great. Otherwise a few choruses of "sleeping bunnies" is always popular!