

EXPERIENCE PROCEDURES

Step One - Creating child-directed sounds and lyrics:

Introduce three animals from the farm using felt board: rooster, cat and mouse. Explain that the rooster is the loudest animal on the farm because he has to wake everyone up. Ask for child-directed contributions:

Which animal is the quietest?

Which animal is not as loud as the rooster, but not as quiet as the mouse?

How does each animal sound and move?

Place the animals in the correct order from loudest to quietest on the felt board.

Step Two - Sing Cumulative Song:

Use the child-directed sounds and movements to sing "I Had a Rooster" in sequence, adding animals from the loudest to the quietest.

*I had a rooster and the rooster pleased me
I fed my rooster on the green berry tree
The little rooster said "Cocka-doodle-doo-dly-doodly-doodly-doodly-doo!"*

*I had a cat and the cat pleased me
I fed my cat on the green berry tree
The little cat said, "Meow meow"
The little rooster said "Cocka-doodle-doo-dly-doodly-doodly-doodly-doo!"*

*I had a mouse and the mouse pleased me
I fed my mouse on the green berry tree
The little mouse said, "Squeak squeak"
The little cat said, "Meow meow"
The little rooster said "Cocka-doodle-doo-dly-doodly-doodly-doodly-doo!"*

Step Three - Counting and Eating Green Berries:

Throughout the song, add a "green berry" to the felt board for each additional animal. Count the berries and the animals - Do we have the same number? At the end of the song, pretend that each animal eats one green berry. Ask the children to create sound effects and movement to show how each animal would eat the berry, continuing to demonstrate loud and quiet sounds.

Closure: This song can be adapted in many ways! Instead of loudest to quietest, animals could be ordered from largest to smallest, or fastest to slowest - or in the order that they occurred in a story you've read.

You could also change the math concept by feeding the animals 2, 5 or 10 green berries each - so children can practice counting by 2's, 5's or 10's.

If you like this idea, consider adapting other cumulative songs such as "I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly," "The Twelve Days of Christmas", or "The Green Grass Grew All Around." Be creative!