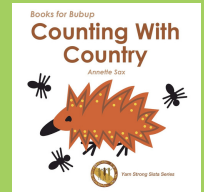


# Counting With Country

## Annette Sax



### Reading outdoors and making connections

If possible, read *Counting with Country* outside. Being on Country helps children connect the book to the real world around them. Depending on where you live, you may see animals, plants, colours, shapes or landscapes similar to the images in the story. Encourage your child to look closely, listen to natural sounds, and talk about what they notice. After reading, return to the book and try some of the extension ideas at the back together.



### Counting together

Read each number page and count the animals or plants shown. Point to each image as you count aloud to build one-to-one correspondence. Gently guide your child's finger and trace the numeral together to link numbers with quantity.

### Build vocabulary with descriptive language

Support language by highlighting adjectives. Point to pictures and talk about colour, movement, size and texture. Use actions, like bending and pumping your arms to show running in "seven racing emus." Repeat phrases and invite your child to join in with actions.

### Marking-making

Invite your child to trace or draw symbols, numbers, lines or pictures in sand or dirt using their finger. Talk about what they are creating and count the marks together. Describe shapes, sizes and actions as you draw. Encourage experimentation and exploration rather than perfect results. If your child finds sensory experiences uncomfortable, offer a stick as an alternative tool so they can still enjoy mark-making.

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# Serve-Return-Rally-Learn

Reading a book together is an opportunity to Serve-Return-Rally with your child. Let's explore a possible Serve-Return-Rally from the book, *"Counting with Country."*



Serve

while reading *"ten tasty ants"*

[child points at ant, shakes finger and looks at adult with a scrunched up face in pained expression]

[adult copies child's gesture and facial expression]

[adult] **"Ouch the ant bit me too. Echidnas bite ants. They think they're yummy."**



Return



Rally

[child turns page backwards and points to a grub]

[adult] **"A grub. Emus eat..."** [pauses?]

[child] **"wubs"**

[adult] **"oh yes, emus love juicy grubs."**

The more rallies you share, the more learning moments you create together.



Learn



## Did you know?

Pointing helps to establish joint attention. Joint attention supports language development. In this example the child points to share their interest. This provides an opportunity to follow the child's lead and keep the rally going.