

QUACK AND COUNT

Slip, slide, leap and dive with a family of seven lively ducklings as they get ready to fly for the very first time. Keith Baker's playful, rhyming text and bold collage illustrations capture the excitement of a day's adventures – and gently introduce counting.

Author and illustrator: Keith Baker

Pages: 24

Ages: 2 to 5 years

Themes: First experiences; counting

Counting the lively ducklings in this book is fun and you can also compare the new experiences these ducklings are having to new experiences your child may be having....staying with a new care giver, going to school. Ask your child if they know someone who goes to school. What do they think children do at school? Maybe you have a school-age child who would be willing to talk about what school is like.

Go through a magazine and find pictures of things you would find in a school. Can they tell you what the object is or what the children are doing? You might want to point out that some children might be afraid to go to school for the first time. What things might be scary to them? New place? New people? Not knowing what to expect? See if they can remember going to day care for the first time. Can they remember how they felt? Are there any other first time situations they'd like to talk about? For instance:

- the first haircut;
- a visit to the doctor or dentist;
- staying away from home overnight;
- going to the hospital.

Maybe your child can tell you how they felt at times like these. How do they feel about them now?