



ELLA JENKINS

123s *and* ABCs



Smithsonian Folkways

ELLA JENKINS 123_s *and* ABC_s

SFW 45076

1. Easy as ABC 1:33
2. Johnny Had One Friend 1:55
3. One, Two, Three, Four, Five 1:11
4. One, Two, Buckle My Shoe 1:23
5. One Potato, Two Potato 1:35
6. Eight Clay Pigeons 3:16
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16. This Old Man 2:47

Tracks 1, 3, 8, 10, 12, and 14 (Ella Jenkins / Ell-Bern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

Tracks 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 16 (arr. Ella Jenkins / Ell-Bern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

Track 7 courtesy of Educational Activities, Inc.



Smithsonian Folkways

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ELLA JENKINS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION

Ella Jenkins wears the title given her by many of her fans, “The First Lady of Children’s Music,” with tremendous energy. Now in her ninth decade, she continues to provide a rare model of the music that best suits the lives and learning styles of young children. Her irresistible songs—performed at preschools, schools, camps, and community institutions as well as on radio, television, concerts, and at teachers’ conferences—draw on a long history of children’s game songs coupled with her own genius as a composer and music educator.

Ella Jenkins, who was born in St. Louis, spent much of her childhood in Chicago, surrounded by music. She studied sociology, child psychology, and recreation at San Francisco State University, and was drawn to the music of her own and other cultures. While working in youth camps and then as a YWCA program director for teens in the early 1950s, she led singing sessions that featured folk and traditional songs from her neighborhood; songs she was learning from Spanish-speaking friends; songs she happened across in Hebrew, Arabic, and French, and from India and the African continent; and songs she’d written. She has performed her songs all over the world, learns new songs everywhere she goes, and teaches them to children when she gets home. Her accomplishments have been widely recognized by awards from ASCAP (Lifetime Achievement) and Parents’ Choice, and she received a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award—the first ever awarded to a children’s music artist. Her recordings, the most popular releases on the Folkways record label, have inspired generations of teachers, children, and musicians.

1

Easy as ABC

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From COME DANCE BY THE OCEAN SFW 45014

This little
alphabetical
exploration is
aimed at the
younger children,
though all ages
can get involved—
especially in the
memory testing.

A is for Apple.
A is for Annie too.

B is for banana.
And B is for the boy in blue.

C is for cherry.
C is for Cathy too.

C is for caring, and I care a lot about you.

2

Johnny Had One Friend

Ella Jenkins, vocals and ukulele

From COUNTING GAMES AND RHYTHMS FOR THE LITTLE ONES SFW 45029

Johnny had one friend, one friend, one friend
Johnny had one friend
Johnny had two.

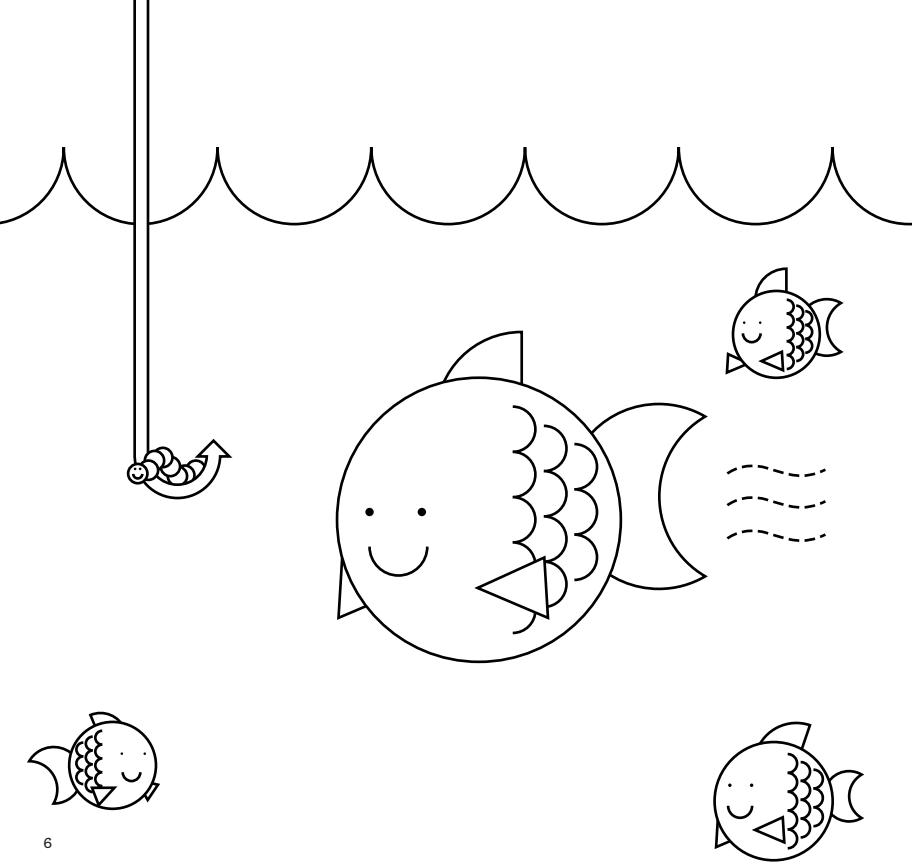
Johnny had two friends, two friends, two friends
Johnny had two friends
Johnny had three.

Johnny had three friends, three friends, three friends
Johnny had three friends
Johnny had four....
(You can keep increasing the number for practice.)

This song was taught to me by Larry Gordon, one of my seven-year-old students. The original song was:

Johnny had one hand, one hand, one hand

Johnny had one hand, etc.



3

One, Two, Three, Four, Five

Ella Jenkins, vocals and ukulele

From COUNTING GAMES AND RHYTHMS FOR THE LITTLE ONES SFW 45029

One, two, three, four, five
I caught a fish alive.

Why did I let him go?
Because he bit my finger so. (Wiggle your little finger.)

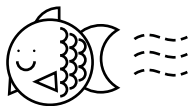
One, two, three, four, five
I caught a fish alive.

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten
I let him go again.

Why did I let him go?
Because he bit my finger so.

Which finger did he bite?
The little one on the right. (Wiggle your little finger.)

I heard this little
counting rhyme
at a workshop in
Montreal, Canada.
The tune did not
stay with me so I
made up a new one.



4

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

Ella Jenkins, vocals; recited by a child named Callie

From COUNTING GAMES AND RHYTHMS FOR THE LITTLE ONES SFW 45029

One, two
Buckle my shoe

Three, four
Knock on the door

Five, six
Pick up sticks

Seven, eight
Lay them straight

Nine, ten
A big fat hen

Eleven, twelve
Dig and delve

Thirteen, fourteen
The maids are courtin'

Fifteen, sixteen
The maids are in the kitchen

Seventeen, eighteen
The maids are waiting

Nineteen, twenty
The platter's empty.

5

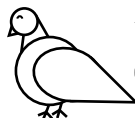
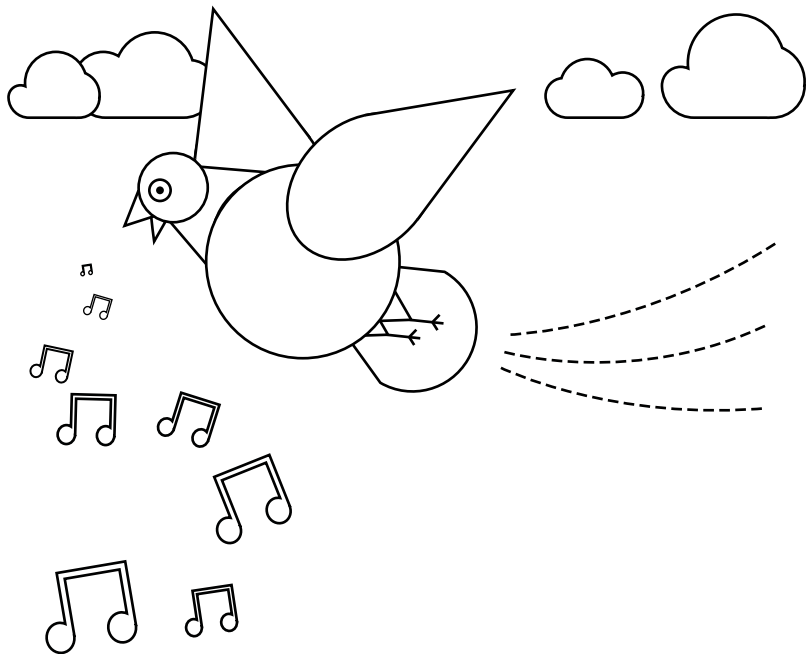
One Potato, Two Potato

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From COUNTING GAMES AND RHYTHMS FOR THE LITTLE ONES SFW 45029

One potato, two potato, three potato, four
Five potato, six potato, seven potato, more.

Here's a little chant to practice rhythm with. The game is easy to play—simply call it “fist stacking.” It's fun to play with partners or with several children. Everybody does the chanting. Children enjoy playing it over and over again. Speed up the rhythm to make it more exciting.



6

Eight Clay Pigeons

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From COUNTING GAMES AND RHYTHMS FOR THE LITTLE ONES SFW 45029

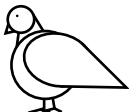
Eight clay pigeons (2x)

Eight clay pigeons a-sitting on a wall

Oh look, one of them has flown away...

Seven clay pigeons (2x)...

You need not confine yourself to eight pigeons—you could easily use fewer or more. Let the children run, skip, hop, etc., on “flown away,” providing there is ample space. As each child flies away, you might suggest an area of the city, state, or country of the world to fly to.



7

Counting from One to Ten in Spanish

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From **LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES** EA 596

(PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INC., USED BY PERMISSION)

Uno

Dos

Tres

Cuatro

Cinco

Seis

Siete

Ocho

Nueve

Diez

8

Counting in Swahili

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From JAMBO AND OTHER CALL AND RESPONSE SONGS AND CHANTS SFW 45017

Ella — group

Moja, Moja — one

Mbili, Mbili — two

Tatu, Tatu — three

Ine, Ine — four

Tano, Tano — five

Sita, Sita — six

Saba, Saba — seven

Nane, Nane — eight

Tisa, Tisa — nine

Kumi, Kumi — ten

9

One, Two, Three, O'Leary

Ella Jenkins, vocals; Rita Ruby, guitar; Angela Palmares, solo (counting Spanish)

From **AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY SERIES: ELLA JENKINS: A LIFE OF SONG** SFW 45067

This was a popular song in my Chicago neighborhood, sung in English from one to ten, and then reversing the order from ten to one. In this rendition, a child sings the numbers in Spanish. The call-and-response form comes shining through, with the group of singing children always at the ready for "O'Leary."

One, two, three, O'Leary
Four, five, six, O'Leary
Seven, eight, nine, O'Leary
Ten, O'Leary postmaster.

Ten, nine, eight, O'Leary
Seven, six, five, O'Leary
Four, three, two, O'Leary
One, O'Leary postmaster.

Uno, dos, tres, O'Leary
Cuatro, cinco, seis, O'Leary
Siete, ocho, nueve, O'Leary
Diez, O'Leary postmaster.

10

Numbers and Alphabets

Ella Jenkins, ukulele; with the children from the Dearborn Park Pre-school

From COME DANCE BY THE OCEAN SFW 45014

One two three, one two three,
Were the very first numbers that were taught to me.
ABC, ABC,
Were the very first letters that were taught to me.
XYZ, XYZ,
Were the very last letters that were taught to me.

The younger children and I worked on these rhymes at their school. I was quite pleased that they did so well in the studio, since we had not rehearsed for some time. Younger children seem to enjoy counting games and reciting alphabets.

11

ABCs

Ella Jenkins, vocals; John Carbo, banjo; Guy Guilbert, guitar

*From **EARLY EARLY CHILDHOOD SONGS** SFW 45015*

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S,
T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z

Now I know my ABCs
Next time won't you sing with me?

12

And One and Two...

Ella Jenkins, ukulele, vocals

*From **AND ONE AND TWO AND OTHER SONGS FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY CHILDREN***

SFW 45016

And one

And two

And three

And four

And five

And six

And seven

And eight

Clap your hands

Shake your hand

Beat your chest

Slap your thighs

Stamp your feet

Tap your knees

Slide your feet

Dangle your legs.

13

Ten Green Bottles

Ella Jenkins, vocals

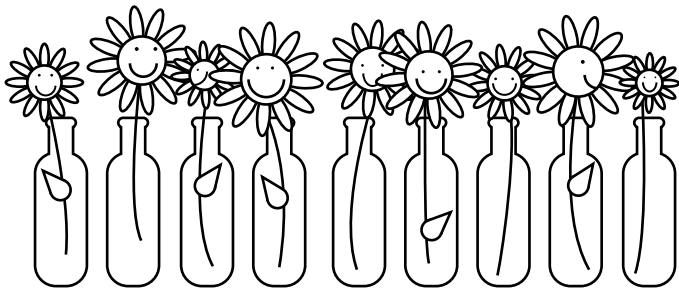
From GROWING UP WITH ELLA JENKINS SFW 45032

Michael Jolley is
from England, but
I met him in New
Orleans, Louisiana.
He taught me this
song from his
childhood.

Ten green bottles hanging on a wall (2x)
If one green bottle should accidentally fall,
There'd be nine green bottles hanging on a wall.

Nine green bottles hanging on a wall (2x)
If two green bottles should accidentally fall,
There'd be seven green bottles hanging on a wall.

Seven green bottles hanging on a wall (2x)
If three green bottles should accidentally fall,
There'd be four green bottles hanging on a wall.

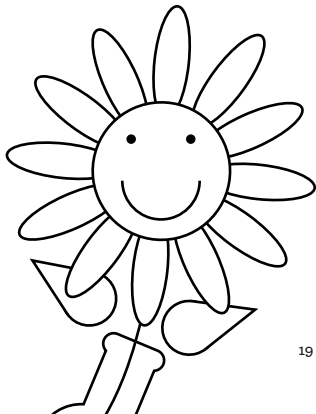


Four green bottles hanging on a wall (2x)

If three green bottles should accidentally fall,
There'd be one green bottle hanging on a wall.

One green bottle hanging on a wall (2x)

If that green bottle should accidentally fall,
There'd be no green bottles hanging on a wall.



14

Farmer Brown Had Ten Green Apples

Ella Jenkins, vocals

From **GROWING UP WITH ELLA JENKINS** SFW 45032

Girls and boys,
here are some
children from the
Mary Crane Day
Care Center who
have a song to
share with us. It
reminds me very
much of Michael
Jolley's song.

Famer Brown had ten green apples hanging on a tree (2x)
Then he picked one apple, and he ate it greedily
Leaving nine green apples a-hanging on a tree.

(Count down with the children taking turns singing
each new verse.)

15

The Rabbi Teaches ABCs / English ABC Song

Arnold Radel, viola; Ella Jenkins, vocals

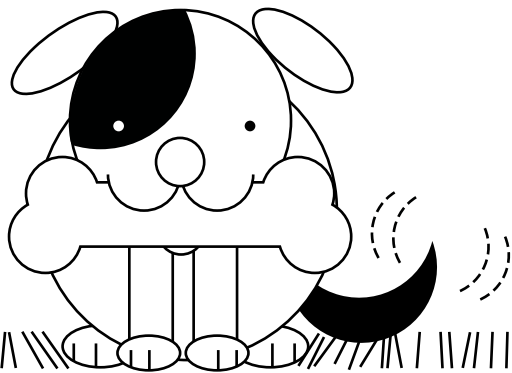
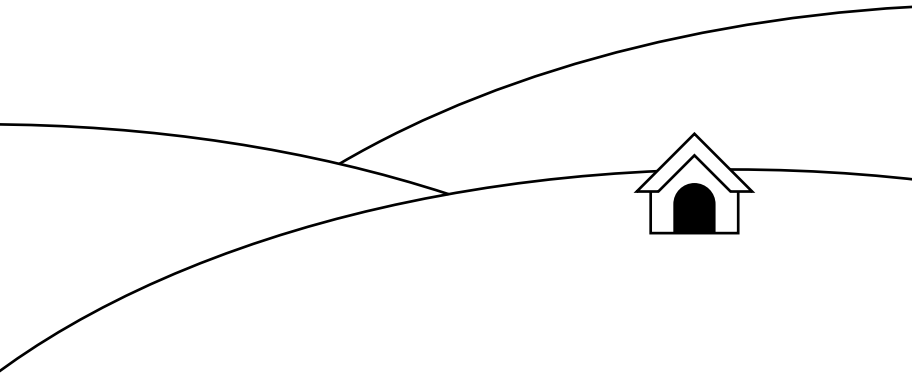
From **TRAVELLIN' WITH ELLA JENKINS** SFW 45009

Alef, Bet, Gimel

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S,
T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z

Now I know my ABCs
Next time won't you sing with me?

In the old days,
the rabbi taught
the young children
their alphabet in
Yiddish while a fire
burned in the stove
in the kitchen. This
helped to keep the
young ones warm
while they were
nestled together
learning their
ABCs.



16

This Old Man

Ella Jenkins, vocals; John Carbo, banjo; Guy Guilbert, guitar

*From **EARLY EARLY CHILDHOOD SONGS** SFW 45015*

This old man, he played one
He played knick knack on my thumb

Chorus:

With a knick knack paddy whack give a dog a bone
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played two
He played knick knack on my shoe

Chorus

This old man, he played three
He played knick knack on my knee

Chorus

This old man, he played four
He played knick knack on my door

Chorus

This old man, he played five
He played knick knack on my side

Chorus

CREDITS

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ABOUT SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution, the national museum of the United States. Our mission is the legacy of Moses Asch, who founded Folkways Records in 1948 to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. The Smithsonian acquired Folkways from the Asch estate in 1987, and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings has continued the Folkways tradition by supporting the work of traditional artists and expressing a commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding among peoples through the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound.



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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Ella Jenkins: 1, 2, 3s and A, B, Cs distills the genius of America's "First Lady of Children's Music" into 16 tracks teaching counting and the alphabet in multiple languages. Ella's joyful engagement, delight in music and game-playing, and deep respect for children of all backgrounds, all make this a classic recording for and with young children.

31 minutes, 28-page booklet



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