

The Number Farm

Emergent Numeracy Screening Measure

Recommended Age: 3-5 years

Presentation Script & Scoring Form

Required: The Number Farm book, pencil/crayon, piece of paper

Points

1. (Front cover) "I have a book for you. What are those on the farm?"
(*point at numbers*) **Child says "numbers."** ____Y ____N **(0-1)** ____
2. (*No matter if correct, cover*) "Those are numbers. Show me the ones that you know."
Correctly named: ____ **Incorrectly named:** ____
(Correct – Incorrect; 0-3: 0 points; 4-8: 1 point; 9: 2 points) **(0-2)** ____
3. (Front cover) "Point to the number *one*. Now, how about the number *four*?"
(Correctly points to neither: 0 points; 1 or 4: 1 point; 1 and 4: 2 points) **(0-2)** ____
4. (Spread 1) "The animals are playing hide and seek. Can you help Farmer Dog count so she can find her friends? Count as high as you can!" (*Stop* once over 11)
(Counts none: 0 points; 1-3: 1 point; 4-10: 2 points; over 10: 3 points) **(0-3)** ____
5. (Spread 2) "These are groups of different kinds of animals.
This is a *horse*. How many horses are there? (2) ____Y ____N
This is a *pig*. How many pigs are there? (4) ____Y ____N
This is a *cow*. How many cows are there? (1) ____Y ____N
This is a *sheep*. How many sheep are there?" (3) ____Y ____N
(None correct: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points; 3: 3 points; 4: 4 points) **(0-4)** ____
6. (Spread 3) "These animals are in groups and playing different games.
Match the number to the group with that number of animals in it."
What number goes with dogs? (4) ____Y ____N
How about pigs? (2) ____Y ____N
How about goats? (1) ____Y ____N
How about chickens?" (3) ____Y ____N
(Matches none: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points; 3: 3 points; 4: 4 points) **(0-4)** ____
7. (Spread 4) "The animals are ready for a snack. I see corn, apples and carrots. Yummy!
Which snack is the *most*? (corn) ____Y ____N
Which snack is the *least*? (apple) ____Y ____N
Are there *more* apples or carrots?" (carrots) ____Y ____N
(None correct: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points; 3: 3 points) **(0-3)** ____

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8. (Spread 5) "These noisy chickens have numbers on them!
 Help Farmer Dog line them up *in order*.
 (point at the 1) "Which number comes after 1 when counting?" (2) ____Y ____N
 (point at the 5) "Which number comes before 5 when counting?" (4) ____Y ____N
(None correct: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points) (0-2) ____
9. (Spread 6) "These numbers are going swimming!
 Bigger numbers make bigger splashes.
 Will 1 or 9 make a bigger splash when it jumps in? (9) ____Y ____N
 Will 3 or 2 make a bigger splash when it jumps in?" (3) ____Y ____N
(None correct: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points) (0-2) ____
10. (Spread 7) "After a fun day, the animals are going to bed.
 The goats and cows sleep in the *field*.
 If you add 1 goat plus 1 cow, how many animals is that? (2) ____Y ____N
 The pigs and cats sleep in the *barn*.
 If you add 2 pigs plus 4 cats, how many animals is that?" (6) ____Y ____N
(None correct: 0 points; 1: 1 point; 2: 2 points) (0-2) ____
11. (Back cover) "You did a great job helping Farmer Dog today!
 This is such a fun book! There are lots of *numbers* on its back cover.
 How old are you? Can you point to the number (child's age)? ____Y ____N
 Provide the child with a pencil/crayon and paper
 Can you *write* the number (child's age) for me?" ____Y ____N
(Unable: 0 points; similar shape: 1 point; correct: 2 points) (0-2) ____

TOTAL: ____ of 27 possible points

Notes about the screening process:

Preliminary risk thresholds: TBD in future work

Recommended citations:

Hutton JS, Singh P, Reel S, Ittenbach RF. Development and pilot testing of the number farm: a numeracy screener for preschool-age children. *Pediatr Res*. 2026 May 14.