

Why read Ten Apples up on Top?

It fits the fall theme-apples are ripening. Apples are a fruit that many toddlers are familiar with, so it is an easy object to build concepts from. Big/little, red/green, hard/soft, sweet/sour.

Pretend/imaginative play: we pretend that beanbags and playdough are apples. This is a skill that typically emerges between the ages of 2-3.

Humor: apples falling off and making a big mess is funny! It is fun to see how each child reacts and develops their own sense of humor.

And... Repetition... leading to imitation of actions and language.

More Communication objectives:

Learning about prepositions/where objects are in space is a skill that typically develops between the ages of 2 and 3. Prepositions: up, on, down (in, out...)

- **Up on top** – has speech sounds that are all ‘easy to produce,’ such as these early developing speech sounds: p, t, n. Stress the final sounds in **up** and **top**
- Me too-pronouns/turntaking
- The book has animals as characters, with very few on each page. Children often label animals by their sound before they say the word. As you read, pause to make animal sounds- bark like a dog, roar like lion and growl like a tiger
- Rhyming words- Look, you, I can do it too, Look, see, I can do three! what I can do, I can put 2-apples *up on top*/ look at me I have three/I can do more, I have 4 apples *up on top*
Rhyming/ sing song draws kids in to attend to the story.

Tips for reading to toddlers:

This book is not necessarily a book that all 2-year olds will sit through. Here are some tips for reading to your toddler at home.

- ✓ It’s ok to skip pages and not read all of the words. As long as you progress from the beginning, talk about a few key things in the middle and the end; that is a successful book reading.
- ✓ Think about ways to interact with the book beyond the pages. Make sounds for animals or vehicles. Use exclamations! Be animated and silly.
- ✓ It’s ok to put the book down and use your hands or find things around the house to ‘act out’ themes in a book. Beanbags can be apples, blocks can be apples, balls can be apples. What else can you find in the house? By Karen and Carissa Holly Ridge Center 2018

