This is an Appalachian counting rhyme describing where animals live as the baby animals perform their mothers' commands.

New words and sounds your child might learn:
meadow, bluebird, muskrat, burrowed, beehive, hummed, snug, crow, lizard, bask, croak.

Before:
• Look at the cover with your child and ask, “What do you think this book is about?”
• Read the title of the book.

During:
• Read the words in a rhyming, sing-song style.
• Read the double pages first and then talk about the pictures. Example: “Where does turtle live? Why do you think the turtle is digging in the sand?”
• Allow your child to guess what number comes next before you turn the page. If it does not come naturally, prompt him.
• Count the number of baby animals. Have the child touch the animal as he counts. As a child approaches three-years-old he will be able to meaningfully count to five.

After:
• Reread the book and make the sounds and actions of the animals. Put your hands together and pretend to dive into the water like the muskrats.
• Make up your own story using the rhyme.

Try some of the ideas above. Continue to use your own imagination during book play, too. Have fun with the book and enjoy your time together.

Family And Child Education