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WHO GOES FIRST? & QUIEN VA PRIMERO?

Children's Counting-out Rhymes in English and Spanish. Collected by Kay Hill. Kay Hill: in English. Bertha G. Cordova: in Spanish.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GAHR

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WHO GOES FIRST? & QUIEN VA PRIMERO?

Children's Counting-out Rhymes in English and Spanish.

Collected by Kay Hill.

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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WHO GOES FIRST? ¿QUIEN VA PRIMERO?**Children's Counting-out Rhymes in English and Spanish
with Kay Hill and Bertha G. Cordova**

BIOGRAPHIES

Kay Hill graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in psychology in 1972, having entered Yale in its first year of coeducation. While at Yale she taught classes in English as a Second Language in the New Haven Public Schools, as a volunteer. She worked for Alliance for Latin-American Progress, Inc., a local community group, to set up summer programs for Hispanic children, and taught art in these programs. Immediately upon graduation she worked for Junta for Progressive Action, another local group, planning and making financial arrangements for the Borinquen Day-Care Center, New Haven's first such center for Spanish-speaking children. The center is still in operation.

For the past six years she has taught English as a Second Language in various elementary schools as part of New Haven's bilingual program. In 1976 she received a master's degree in education from Southern Connecticut State College. She is currently a bilingual resource specialist at Lee High School in New Haven.

Her interests include playing piano, writing songs, painting, and running. She speaks Spanish and Portuguese, having studied and traveled in Mexico and Portugal, and mostly having done a lot of talking with her students!

Bertha G. Córdoba was born and grew up in Cuba, where she became a teacher and taught elementary school for eight years. She came to the United States and continued teaching at the primary level. For the past eight years she has been a part of New Haven's bilingual program. She has completed her courses for a master's degree in special education at the University of Connecticut. She enjoys working with her young students, most of whom are from Puerto Rico.

Most of my English as a Second Language students are native speakers of Spanish, Portuguese, or Italian. It was the students who gave me the idea for this project. We play many language-oriented games, and must always decide who will go first. The easiest way for me to solve this minor dilemma, while avoiding accusations of favoritism, has been to use the same method I employed in such situations in my own childhood. I use what is called a "counting-out rhyme." In my case I go around the group saying either "Eeny Meeny Miny Mo" or "One Potato, Two Potato."

The first time I do this it is invariably met by responses of pure delight. The children beg for repetitions

and quickly learn both ditties. It doesn't bother me that for a while they may not understand the meanings of the words. They gain an awareness of the English rhythmic, rhyming, and general phonic system, and this is enough to satisfy the pedant in me. Later they may pick up some vocabulary, a nice if-then clause ("If he hollers, let him go"), and the numbers to seven.

The children's interest in my two counting-out rhymes in English has led to some marvelous sessions in which they have shared the similar rhymes in their own languages. Their eagerness to learn each other's rhymes is encouraging because, in spite of adult illusions, children are often less than perfect models of different-culture curiosity, or even tolerance.

I started to collect counting-out rhymes from around the world, including ones in languages other than my students'. My main sources have been people, especially those in the New Haven schools and at Yale University. I have also consulted numerous related books.

I have tried to select those English and Spanish rhymes which are most interesting and most common for inclusion in this collection. Many of them fall into one of two categories. The first kind includes numbers (One Potato, Two Potato and Cinco, Diez, Quince, Veinte), a literal counting-out. The other kind starts with one or more lines of nonsense (Eeny Meeny Miny Mo and Tin Marín de los Tingüé). I would hope that people hearing the rhymes would be struck, as I was, by the cross-cultural parallels which exist despite the obvious differences.

The counting-out rhymes are usually ones of elimination. The person being pointed to at the last syllable goes out and the rhyme is repeated starting with the next person, most often going in a clockwise direction. When only one person remains that person goes first. The other kind are selection rhymes, in which "it" goes first and the rhyme is not repeated. Obviously there are many variations such as in wording and how the rhyme is used.

I realize that many people listening to the record will hear a rhyme and protest, "We don't say it that way; it goes like this ..." My simple request for counting-out rhymes has already instigated disputes such as the one over whether it should be "Tin marín de los tingüé" or "Tin marín de dos pingüé." Of course, it "should be" whatever it is, whatever exists. By their very nature these rhymes will vary. Certainly some changes can be expected during their oral transmission among children. It is probably more remarkable how little the rhymes actually do change over time and across distance.

Many people will also disagree with the country that is cited as the place where the rhyme is spoken. I have given these only according to the people or books that were my sources. I would expect other people to say, "We never said that," or, "We said that, too."

The basic purposes of this bilingual collection of counting-out rhymes are to have a little fun and to give children in particular a glimpse of children in another culture in a way that fosters cross-cultural identification in spite of differences. Children listening might get a sense of children in another language and in another part of the world doing something different yet similar to an aspect of their own game playing.

The record presents each rhyme three times. First the rhyme is spoken in its entirety. Then it is spoken line by line, leaving time for the listener to repeat each line. Finally it is spoken again in its entirety, and the listener can say the whole rhyme along with the record. It is hoped that this method of presentation will help those listening to participate actively and to learn the rhymes.

WHERE THE COUNTING-OUT RHYMES ARE SPOKEN

ENGLISH

Pig snout --- Universal
 Red, white, and blue --- Universal
 Ese, ose, Man's nose --- Scotland
 Andy, mandy, sugar candy --- United States
 Eetle, otte, black bottle --- Universal
 Each, peach, pear, plum, --- Universal
 Boy Scout, watch out --- Canada
 Sky blue, sky blue --- Canada
 A,B,C,D --- United States
 Apples, peaches, pears, plums --- North America
 Three potatoes in a pot --- Universal
 Monkey, monkey, bottle of pop --- North America
 You can stand and you can sit --- United States
 The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker --- Universal
 One potato, two potato, three potato, four --- Universal
 Great A, little a, Bouncing B --- Universal
 Out goes the cat, Out goes the rat --- United States
 One, two, three, The bumble bee --- United States
 One, two, three, One, two, three --- Universal
 One, two, three, Granny caught a flea --- Universal
 All around the butter dish, One, two, three --- United States
 Inky pinky ponky, Daddy bought a donkey --- Universal
 One day I went a-fishing, And I caught a little trout ---
 Scotland
 Mickey Mouse built a house --- United States
 Monkey, monkey, sitting on a fence --- United States
 Bubble gum, bubble gum, In the dish --- Universal
 A,B,C,D,E,F,G --- Universal
 Ibibdy, bibiddy, sibiddy, sail --- United States
 Hickory, dickory, dock --- Universal
 Eenie, meenie, minie, mo --- Universal (tiger)
 Bee, bee, bumblee --- United States
 One, two, three, four --- Universal
 Eenie, meenie, minie, mo --- Universal (thief)
 Fireman, Fireman, Number Eight --- United States
 Onery, twoery, ickory, Ann --- Universal
 One, two, three, four, five, six, seven --- Universal
 Piggy on the railway picking up stones --- North America
 Eena meena dixie dan --- United States
 Polly wants a cracker --- United States

As I was walking by a lake --- Universal
 The people who live across the way --- North America
 Engine, Engine, Number Nine --- North America
 Intery, mintery, cutery, corn --- Universal
 As I went up the apple-tree --- Universal
 One, two, three, four, five --- Universal
 Onezall, twozall, zitterzall, zee --- United States
 Hink, spink, the puddings stink --- Universal
 One, two, buckle my shoe --- Universal

SPANISH

Manzana podrida --- Spain
 Zapatito, Cochinito --- Chile
 A, E, I, O, U --- Latin America (el burro)
 A, E, I, O, U --- Latin America (Cuántos años)
 Botón, botón, De la bota botera --- Spain
 Pata de vaca --- El Salvador
 Cinco, diez, Quince, veinte --- Latin America
 Manzanita del Perú --- Peru
 ¿Cuántas patas tiene el gato? --- Universal
 Mickey Mouse iba hacer una casita --- Puerto Rico
 La pluma, el lápiz, y el papel --- Guatemala
 Pin uno, pin dos --- Latin America
 Terromé, terromé --- Chile
 Cinco pollitos Tiene mi tía --- Latin America
 Una, dola, Tela, canela --- Latin America
 Mácara chinflán --- Spain
 Mariposa, mariposa --- Spain
 Ratón, que te pilla el gato --- Latin America
 Dos y dos son cuatro --- Latin America
 Tito, Tito, colorito --- Cuba
 Tortilla, tortilla, para mamá --- Mexico
 Pico, pico, mandorico --- Puerto Rico (A la vuelta)
 Arre, moto, pitipoto --- Puerto Rico
 Los patitos, cui, cui, cui --- Latin America
 Tin marín de los tingüé, --- Puerto Rico (la mula)
 Tin marín de los tingüé --- Puerto Rico (Alza la pata)
 ¡Al salir de la montaña --- Peru
 Manzanita colorada --- Puerto Rico
 La manzana se pasea --- Latin America
 En el patio de mi casa --- Latin America
 Chini, mini, mani, mo --- Latin America
 Una vieja mató un gato --- Latin America
 Todos los patitos se fueron a bañar --- Puerto Rico
 Tin marín de dos pingué --- Panama
 Pico, pico, mandorico, --- Puerto Rico (La gallina colorá)
 Tin marín de los tingüé --- Puerto Rico (Una abeja)
 A la una mi mula --- Latin America

Pig snout,
Walk out.

Red, white, and blue,
All out but you.

Ese, ose,
Man's nose,
Ese, ose,
Out.

Andy, mandy, sugar candy,
Out goes he.

Eettle, ottle, black bottle,
Eettle, ottle, out.

Each, peach, pear, plum,
Out goes Tom Thumb.

Boy Scout, watch out!
Girl Guide, step aside!

Sky blue, sky blue,
Who's it? Not you.

A, B, C, D,
Tell your age to me.

Apples, peaches, pears, plums,
Tell me when your birthday comes.
(Eg. March: January, February, March.)

Three potatoes in a pot,
Take one out and leave it hot.

Monkey, monkey, bottle of pop,
On which monkey do we stop?

You can stand and you can sit,
But if you play you must be it.

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker,
They all jumped out of a rotten potato.

One potato, two potato,
Three potato, four,
Five potato, six potato,
Seven potato MORE.

Great A, little a,
Bouncing B,
The cat's in the cupboard
And can't see me.

Out goes the cat,
Out goes the rat,
Out goes the lady
With the big fat hat.

One, two, three,
The bumble bee,
The rooster crows,
And away he goes.

One, two, three,
One, two, three,
Out in the middle
Of the deep blue sea.

One, two, three,
Granny caught a flea,
Salted it and peppered it
And put it in her tea.

All around the butter dish,
One, two, three,
If you want a pretty girl,
Just pick ME.

Inky pinky ponky,
Daddy bought a donkey.
Donkey died, daddy cried,
Inky pinky ponky.

One day I went a-fishing,
And I caught a little trout,
And I said, "You little beggar,
Does your mother know you're out?"

Mickey Mouse built a house,
How many nails did he need?
One, two, three,
Out goes HE.

Monkey, monkey, sitting on a fence,
Trying to make a dollar out of fifteen cents.
One, two, three,
Out goes HE.

Bubble gum, bubble gum,
In the dish,
How many bubble gums,
Do you wish?
One, two, three,
Out goes SHE.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S, T,
Uare out.

Ibiddy, bibiddy, sibiddy, sail,
Ibiddy, bibiddy, canal boat,
Dictionary down the ferr,
Out goes YOU.

Hickory, dickory, dock.
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory, dickory, dock.

Eenie, meenie, minie, mo,
Catch a tiger by the toe,
If he hollers let him go,
Out goes YOU.

Bee, bee, bumblebee,
Stung a man upon his knee,
Stung a pig upon his snout,
I declare if you ain't out.

One, two, three four,
Mary at the cottage door,
Five, six, seven, eight,
Eating cherries off a plate.

Eenie, meenie, minie, mo,
Catch a thief by the toe,
If he hollers make him pay
Fifty dollars every day.

Fireman, Fireman, Number Eight,
Struck his head against the gate,
The gate flew in, the gate flew out,
And that's the way the fire went out.

Onery, twoery, ickory, Ann,
Fillison, follison, Nicholas, John,
Queevy, quavy, English navy,
Stinklum, stanklum, buck.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
All good children go to heaven.
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,
All bad children have to wait.

Piggy on the railway picking up stones,
Down came an engine and broke Piggy's bones,
"Oh," cried Piggy, "that's not fair!"
"Oh," cried the engine, "I don't care!"

Eena meena dixie dan,
Who will be a soldier man?
Ride a horse, beat a drum,
Tell me when your birthday comes.
(Eg. March fourth: January, February, March,
first, second, third, fourth.)

Polly wants a cracker,
Polly wants a ball,
Polly wants you to be
First of all.
Polly wants a cracker,
Polly wants a ball,
Polly wants you to be
Second of all.

As I was walking by a lake,
I met a little rattlesnake,
I gave it so much jellycake,
It made its little belly ache,
One, two, three,
Out goes she.

The people who live across the way,
At nineteen-eighteen East Broadway,

Every night they have a fight
And this is what they say.
"Icky-bicky-soda-cracker,
Icky-bicky-boo;
Icky-bicky-soda-cracker,
Out goes you."

Engine, Engine, Number Nine,
Going down Chicago Line,
If the train falls off the track,
Do you want your money back?
Y-E-S spells yes and you are not it.

Intery, mintery, cutery, corn,
Apple seed and apple thorn,
Wire, briar, limber lock,
Three geese in a flock,
One flew east and one flew west,
And one flew over the cuckoo's nest.

As I went up the apple-tree,
All the apples fell on me;
Bake a puddin', bake a pie,
Did you ever tell a lie?
Yes, you did, you know you did,
You broke your mother's teapot lid.

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive,
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
The little finger on the right.

Onezall, twozall, zitterzall, zee,
Striddleum, straddleum, chicken's knee,
Ham, slam, musty jam,
Stringum, strangum, bumblebee;
Stung Jacob on the knee,
Stung his donkey on the snout;
One, two, three, and you are OUT.

Hink, spink, the puddings stink,
The fat begins to fry,

Nobody home but jumping Joan,
Father and mother and I.
Stick, stock, stone dead,
Blind man can't see,
Every knave will have a slave,
You or I must be HE.

One, two, buckle my shoe;
Three, four, knock at 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, maids a-courting;
Fifteen, sixteen, maids in the kitchen;
Seventeen, eighteen, maids in waiting;
Nineteen, twenty, my plate's empty.

Manzana podrida,
Entrada y salida.

Rotten apple,
In and out.

Zapatito,
Cochinito,
Cam-bia-lo.

Little shoe,
little pig,
Change it.

A, E, I, O, U,
¡Más sabe el burro que tú!

A, E, I, O, U,
The donkey knows more than you.

A, E, I, O, U.
¿Cuántos años tienes tú?

A, E, I, O, U,
How old are you?

Botón, botón.
De la bota botera.
Chiribitón, ¡Fuera!

Button, button,
Of the boot botera,
Chiribitoñ, Out!

Pata de vaca,
Cola de buey,
Vi a tu tata,
Cortando magüey.

Cow's foot,
Ox's tail,
I saw your father,
Cutting magüey.

Cinco, diez,
Quince, veinte,
Ya al agua
Está caliente.

Five, ten,
Fifteen, twenty,
Now the water
Is hot.

Manzanita del Perú.
¿Cúantos años tienes tú?

Little apple of Peru,
How old are you?

¿Cúantas patas tiene el gato?
Una, dos, tres, y cuatro.

How many feet does the cat have?
One, two, three, and four.

Mickey Mouse iba hacer una casita.
¿Cúantos clavos necesita?
(Uno, dos, tres,
Cuatro, cinco, seis,
Siete, ocho, nueve, diez.)

Mickey Mouse was going to build a little house,
How many nails did he need?
(One, two, three,
Four, five, six,
Seven, eight, nine, ten.)

La pluma, el lápiz, y el papel.
Dicen que él que sale es él.

The pen, the pencil, and the paper,
Say that the one who goes out is he.

Pin uno, pin dos,
Pin tres, pin cuatro,
Pin cinco, pin seis,
Pin siete, pin ocho (Pinocho)

Pin one, pin two,
Pin three, pin four,
Pin five, pin six,
Pin seven, pin eight. (Pinocchio)

Terromé, terromé,
Te sic, te sac,
Túmbala,
Es tis tos tus,
Para que salgas tú.

Terromé, terromé,
Te sic, te sac,
Túmbala,
Es tis tos tus,
To get you out.

Cinco pollitos
Tiene mi tía;
Uno le salta,
Otro le pía,
Y otros le tocan
La sinfonía.

My aunt has five chicks;
One jumps for her,
Another sings for her,
And others play the harmonica for her.

Una, dola,
Tela, canela,
Tabaco de vela,
Velillo velón,
Que cuente las doce,
Que ya casi son.

One, two,
Cloth, cinnamon,
Tobacco of candle,
Small candle, big candle,
Count to twelve,
Now it's almost twelve.

Mácaro chinflán,
Chiverí chiverí macán,
Noté noté la petí tí tí,
Noté noté la petí tingüé.

Mácaro chinflán,
Chiverí chiverí macán,
Noté noté la petí tí tí,
Noté noté la petí tingüé.

Mariposa, mariposa,
Vestida de rosa,
A la luz del candil,
¿Cúantas maripositas hay aquí?

Butterfly, butterfly,
Dressed in pink,
By the light of the lamp,
How many little butterflies are there here?

Ratón, que te pilla el gato;
Ratón, que te va a pillar,
Ratón, que te está pillando;
Ratón, que te pilló ya.

Mouse, the cat wants to catch you;
Mouse, he's going to catch you;
Mouse, he's catching you;
Mouse, now he caught you.

Dos y dos son cuatro,
Cuatro y dos son seis,
Seis y dos son ocho,
Y ocho dieciseis.

Two and two are four,
Four and two are six,
Six and two are eight,
And eight are sixteen.

Tito, Tito, colorito,
¿Dónde vas tan bonito?
Por la acera verdadera.
Pin, pon, fuera.

Tito, Tito, little red one.
Where are you going so handsome?
Along the sidewalk, truly,
Pin, pon, out.

Tortilla, tortilla, para mamá,
Tortilla, tortilla, para papá,
Tortilla, tortilla, para María,
Tortilla, tortilla, para mi tía.

Tortilla, tortilla, for mother,
Tortilla, tortilla, for father,
Tortilla, tortilla, for Maria,
Tortilla, tortilla, for my aunt.

Pico, pico, mandorico,
¿Quién te dio tamaño pico?
A la vuelta, a la redonda,
Esta mano que se esconda.

Pico, pico, mandorico,
Who gave you such a big beak?
Around the corner, all around,
This hand is the one that hides.

Arre, moto, pitipoto,
Arre, moto, pitipá;
Cuatro patas tiene un gato:
Una, dos, tres, y cuatro,

Arre, moto, pitipoto,
Arre, moto, pitipá,
A cat has four feet:
One, two, three, four.

Los patitos, cui, cui, cui,
Pasan todos por aquí;
Pico, pico, pico, pico,
Adelante va el más chico.

The ducklings, cui, cui, cui,
They all go by here;
Pico, pico, pico, pico, (the sound ducks make)
The smallest one goes ahead.

Tín marín, de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
Se fué la mula, se fué el juez,
Y todos dicen, "¿Quién fué?"

Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
The mule left, the judge left,
And everybody says, "Who was it?"

Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
Alza la pata, caballo blanco,
Mira a ver quien fue.

Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
Raise your foot, white horse,
Look to see who it was.

¡Al salir de la montaña
Una mosca me picó
La agarré de las orejas
Y la mosca se escapó!

Leaving from the mountain
A fly bit me
I grabbed it by the ears
And the fly escaped!

Manzanita colorada,
Que del suelo te cogí,
Si no estás enamorada,
Enamórate de mí.

Little red apple,
That I took from the ground,
If you are not in love,
Fall in love with me.

La manzana se pasea
De la sala al comedor,
No me mates con cuchillo,
Pínchame con tenedor.

The apple goes walking
From the living room to the dining room,
Don't kill me with a knife,
Just prick me with a fork.

En el patio de mi casa
Hay un palo de arroz,
Apostemos, apostemos,
Que él que queda es veinte y dos.

In the patio of my house
There is a rice tree,
Let's bet, let's bet,
That whoever remains is twenty two.

Chini, mini, mani, mo,
El cinito Francisco,
Y con leri, leri, lo,
Chini, mini, mani, mo.

Chini, mini, mani, mo,
The cinito Frank,
And with leri, leri, lo,
Chini, mini, mani, mo.

Una vieja mató un gato,
Con la punta del zapato,
El zapato se rompió,
Y la vieja se enfadó.

An old woman killed a cat,
With the point of her shoe,
The shoe broke,
And the old woman got mad.

Todos los patitos se fueron a bañar,
El mas chiquitito se quiso quedar,
La mamá lo haló y le quiso pegar,
El pobre patito se puso a llorar,
Cua, cua, cua.

All the little ducks went to swim,
The smallest one wanted to stay,
His mother grabbed him and wanted to beat him,
The poor little duck started to cry,
Quack, quack, quack.

Tín marín de dos pingüé,
Cúcara mácara títiri fué,
El hijo del rey,
Pasó por aquí,
Comiendo maní;
A todos les dió,
Menos a mí.
Palos y palos,
Para los caballos,
Tusturustús,
Para que salgas tú.

Tín marín de dos pingüé,
Cúcara mácara títiri fué,
The king's son,
Passed by here,
Eating peanuts;
He gave some to everybody,
Except me.
Sticks and sticks,
For the horses,
Tusturustús,
So you go out.

Pico, pico, mandorico,
¿Quién te dió tamaño pico?
La gallina colorá
Que puso un huevo en la níá,
Que puso uno,
Que puso dos,
Que puso tres,
Que puso cuatro,
Guárdame ese huevito
Hasta mañana a las cuatro.

Pico, pico, mandorico,
Who gave you such a big beak?
The red hen
Who put an egg in the nest,
Who put one,
Who put two,
Who put three,
Who put four,
Watch that egg for me
Until tomorrow at four o'clock.

Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
Una abeja me picó
En un palo de mangó,
La cogí por la pestaña,
Pero se me escapó,
Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué.

Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué,
A bee stung me
In a mango tree,
I caught it by its eyelash,
But it got away,
Tín marín de los tingüé,
Cúcara, mácara, títere fué.

A la una mi mula,
A las dos mi reloj,
A las tres mi café,
A las cuatro mi gato,
A las cinco te hinco,
A las seis pan de rey,
A las siete machete,
A las ocho to doy el mocho,
A las nueve te lo quito,
A las diez huye que te coge el buey.

At one my mule,
At two my watch,
At three my coffee,
At four my cat,
At five I pinch you,
At six the king's bread,
At seven machete,
At eight I give you the small machete,
At nine I take it away from you,
At ten run away or the ox will catch you.

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