Nursery Rhymes and Songs to Help Counting

To rote count to 10:

Catching a Fish

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, I caught a fish alive.
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, I let it go again.
Why did I let it go?
Because it bit my finger so!
What finger did it bite?
The little one on the right.

To model 1:

Jack Be Nimble

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick.
Jack jump over the candlestick.

To Model 2:

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

To Model 3:

Hippity Hop

Hippity hop the candy shop
To buy three sticks of candy.
One for you and one for me
And one for sister Mandy.

To Model 4:

Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes
Knees and toes
Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes
Knees and toes
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose
Heads, shoulders, knees, and toes
Knees and toes.

To Model 5:

Hive of Bees

Here is the beehive.
Where are the bees?
Hidden inside where nobody sees.
Now they come creeping
Out of the hive—1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

To Model 0 by Counting Back From 5:

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out to play,
Over the meadow and far away.
Mother Duck called, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
Four little ducks came running back.

[Repeat verses until no little ducks come back. Then sing]

No little ducks went out to play,
Over the meadow and far away.
Mother Duck called, “QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.”
Five little ducks came running back.
To Practice Creating Sets of Up to Five Items:

If You're Happy

If you're happy and you know it, clap [two] times,
If you're happy and you know it, clap [two] times,
If you're happy and you know it, your face will surely show it,
If you're happy and you know it, clap [two] times,

[In subsequent verses, replace the number with one, three, four, or five, and the action with other motions such as tap your head, stamp your feet, touch your nose, and so on.]