



Click to
sing along

1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive

Singing days are happy days with Piccolo Music



Scan to sing along

What Did the Fish Say?

Piccolo Music's 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive turns counting into a musical adventure full of surprises, sound words and storytelling. Count forwards and backwards | catch and release fish | invent silly voices | splash, plop and "ouch!" together .

- join in with repeated counting patterns
- listen for funny spoken words
- move, clap and react together
- explore rhythm, pulse and anticipation through play

Babies

- Bounce gently as you count
- **Wiggle** fingers like swimming fish
- Lift and lower baby on "whoaah!" and "plop!"
- Kiss the poorly finger better

Toddlers

- **Count** forwards and backwards together
- Pretend to catch, throw and splash the fish
- Jump on "ouch!" and "plop!"
- Use **silly fish voices** and sound effects

Nursery & Reception

- Count forwards | backwards | loud | quiet
- Change the **tempo** and **dynamics** as you sing
- Invent funny fish and sea creatures together

Let's get started

Count together on fingers, knees or toes | clap or tap the numbers to the beat | make a big "whoaah!", "plop!" and "ouch!"

Try : small fish | big fish | slow fish | fast fish | frustrated or calm fish voices

Children often join in through counting, movement and funny sounds first.

Keep the song changing

- Count forwards... then backwards
- Fast splashes | sleepy swimming
- Whisper numbers | giant "OUCH!"
- Could you count in 2s, 5s or 10s?
- Let children lead the fish adventures

Fishing Sound Game

Choose sounds and actions for different fish, changing the tempo, dynamics and movement :
tiny fish | long, slow fish | tired fish | excited fish

- Try :**
- tapping claves for counting
 - shakers for splashes
 - drums for giant fish
 - whisper voices for sneaky fish

When the fish appears: freeze | splash | jump | shout "OUCH!"

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WORLD
Nursery Rhyme Week
Sing With Piccolo Music
Official Music Partner
9th to 13th
November 2026



There's no right way to sing this song

Children join in in lots of different ways - by listening, watching, moving, copying actions or singing favourite words.



Repeat the favourite parts and let the song change each time you sing

Fishing Clapping Game

Clap a steady pattern together:

clap | pat | clap | pat

Only clap on the numbers as you sing.

Add actions:

swim the fish through the water | hide the fish behind your back | hands out for "Why?" | shake your finger for "Ouch!"

- **Try** : fast and slow counting
- quiet and loud claps

Can everyone keep the same pulse/beat as the pattern repeats?

Learning Focus:

Pulse/Beat + Coordination + Repeated Patterns + Musical Memory

Lycra Fishing Game

Bounce a **squirble** or bounce a **toy fish** on the lycra as you count together.

Lift the fish high on "whoaah!" | drop low on "plop!" | rock side to side like rolling waves

Try : bouncing to a steady pulse/beat | fast and slow fish movements | quiet ripples and giant splashes

Can you work together to keep the fish from falling off?

Learning Focus:

Pulse/Beat + Teamwork + Dynamics + Coordination

Fish Voice Orchestra

Choose a fish voice:

Try : shy fish | grumpy fish | sleepy fish | opera fish | speedy fish

One child becomes the conductor with signals for loud and soft, fast and slow and high and low voices
quiet fish | giant fish | speedy fish | sleepy fish

Can you add a percussion instrument or action?

Learning Focus:

Listening + Musical Contrast
Expression + Imagination

Fishing Number Game

Create fishing spots around the room:
1 fish | 2 fish | 3 crabs | treasure island

At each stop:

- clap the number
- tap claves that many times
- jump or splash to the beat
- count forwards or backwards together

Roll a dice or pick a picture/number card to decide where to fish next.

Learning Focus:

Counting + Pulse/Beat + Sequencing + Turn Taking

Language & Communication

- Counting **forwards** and **backwards**
- **Rhyming words** and sound effects
- **Listening** and **responding** together
- **Storytelling** through play and music

Movement & Coordination

- Clapping, tapping and splashing **actions**
- **Big** and **small** fish movements
- **Coordinating** actions to the **beat**
- **Balance** and body control

Musical Learning

- Steady counting **pulse/beat**
- Fast and slow **tempo** changes
- Loud and quiet **dynamics**
- Repeated **musical patterns**

Playing together

- **Taking turns** leading actions
- **Copying** sounds and movements
- Group counting and music **games**
- **Cooperative play** and storytelling

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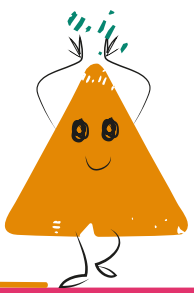


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Sing With Piccolo Music
Official Music Partner

9th to 13th
November 2026



1 2 3 4 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive



Click this link
to sing along



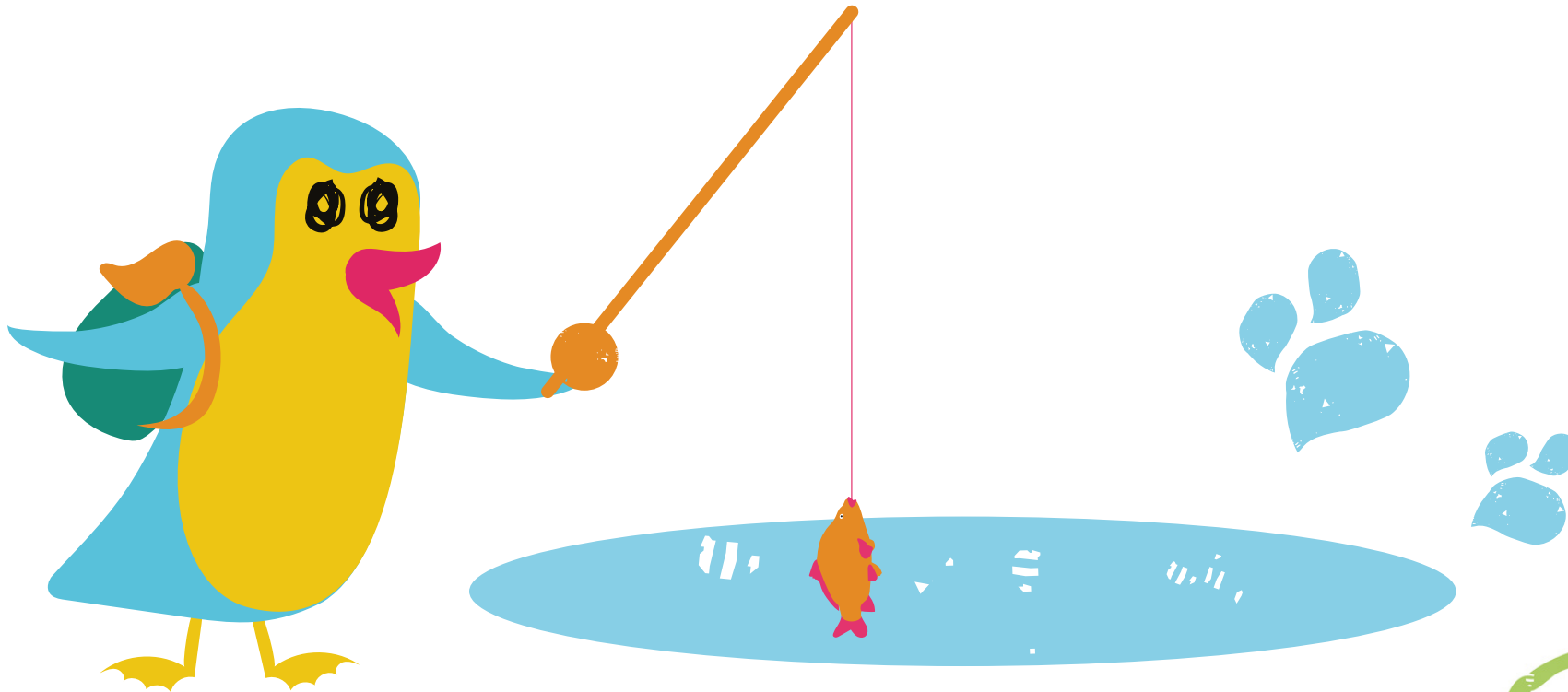
Join **Rabana the Tambourine**
as we expand on this favourite
counting rhyme with **Piccolo
Music's** additional verses
counting up and down to 10 in
2s! Look out - there's also a
feisty fish, what colour are
they?



1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

One, two, three, four, five

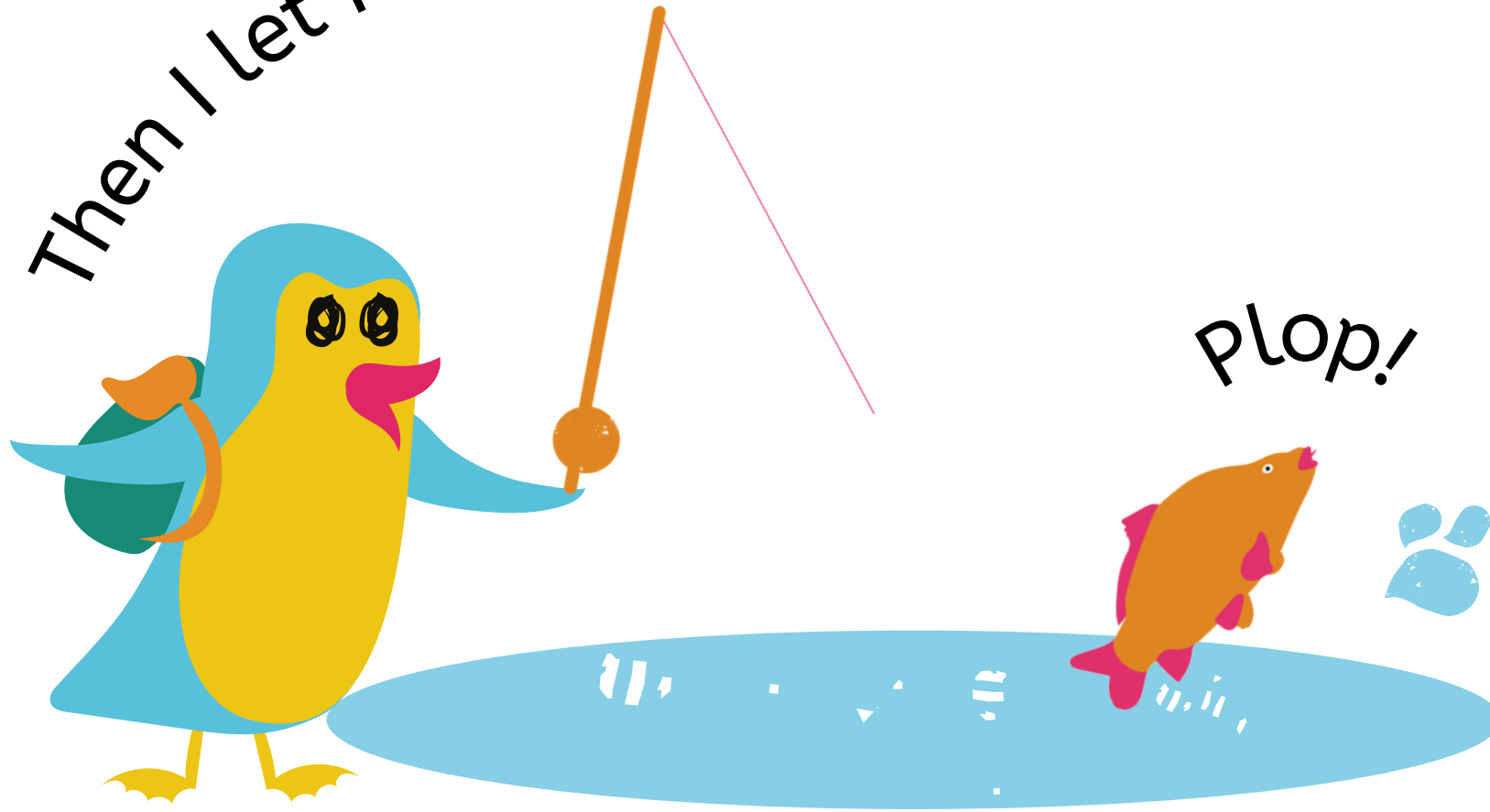


Once I caught a fish alive

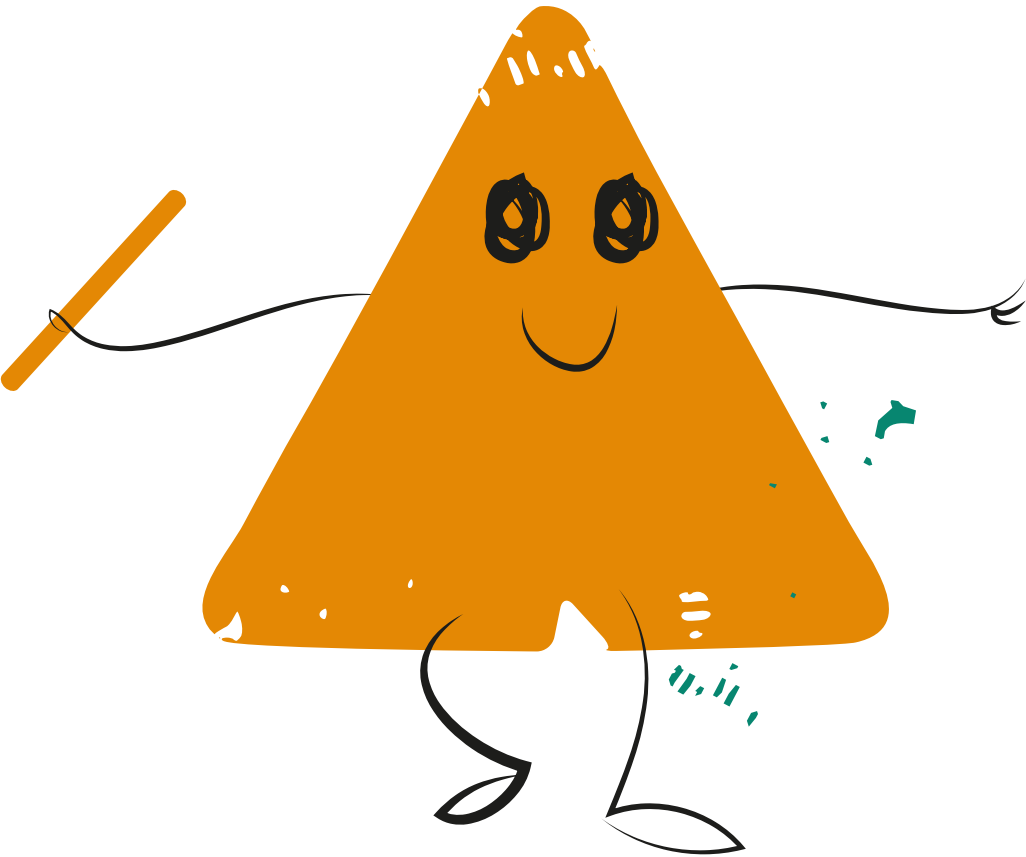


Six, seven, eight, nine, ten

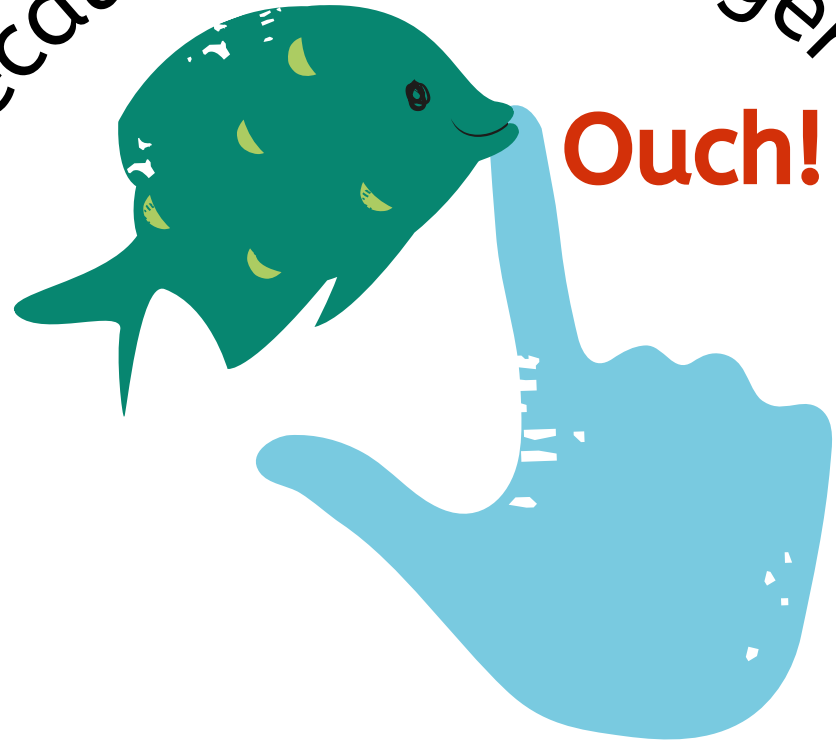
Then I let it go again



Why did you let it go?

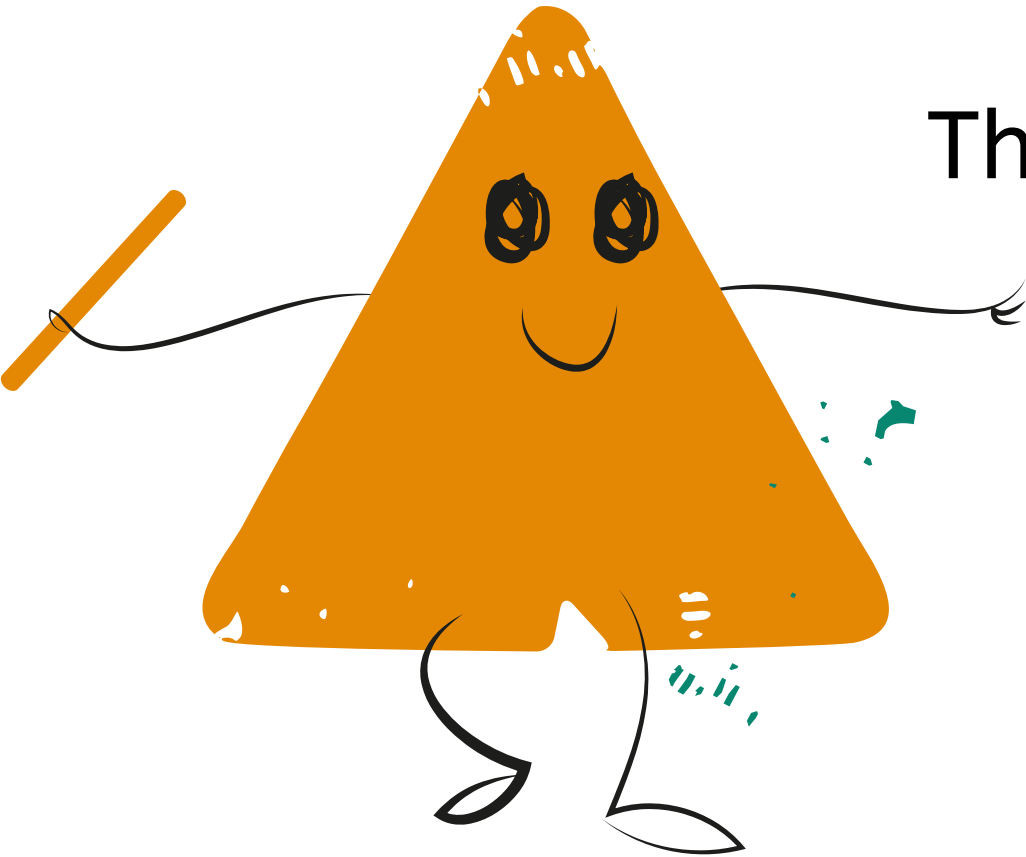


Because it bit my finger so



Ouch!

Which finger did it bite?

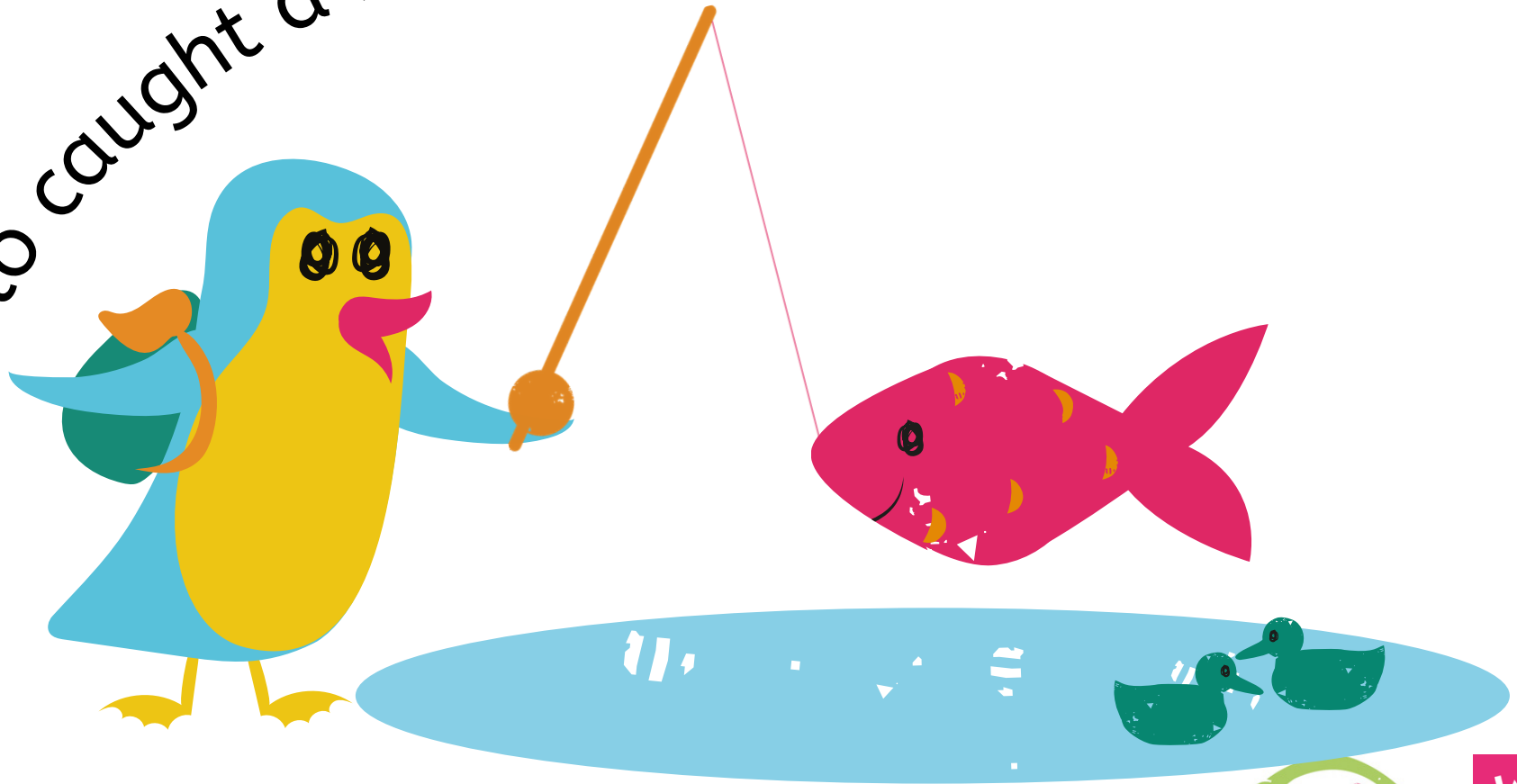


This little finger on my right



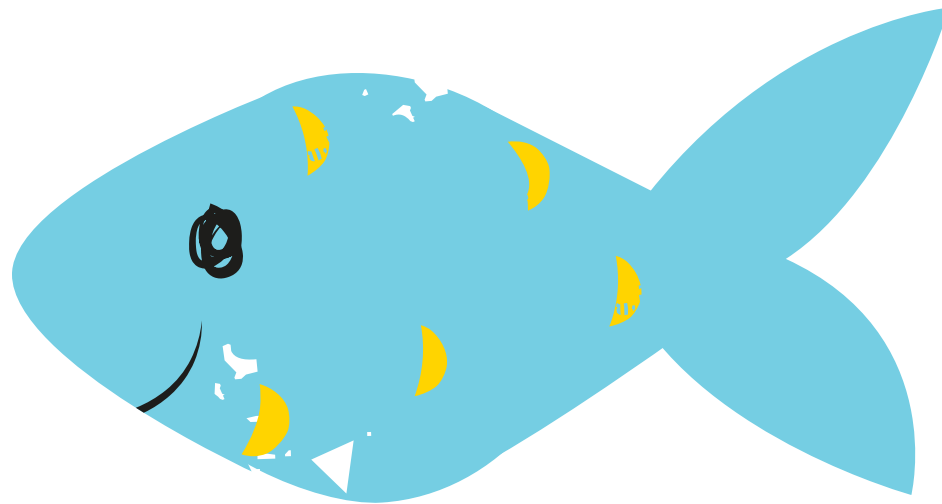
Two, four, six, eight, ten

Piccolo caught a fish again



Ten, eight, six, four, two

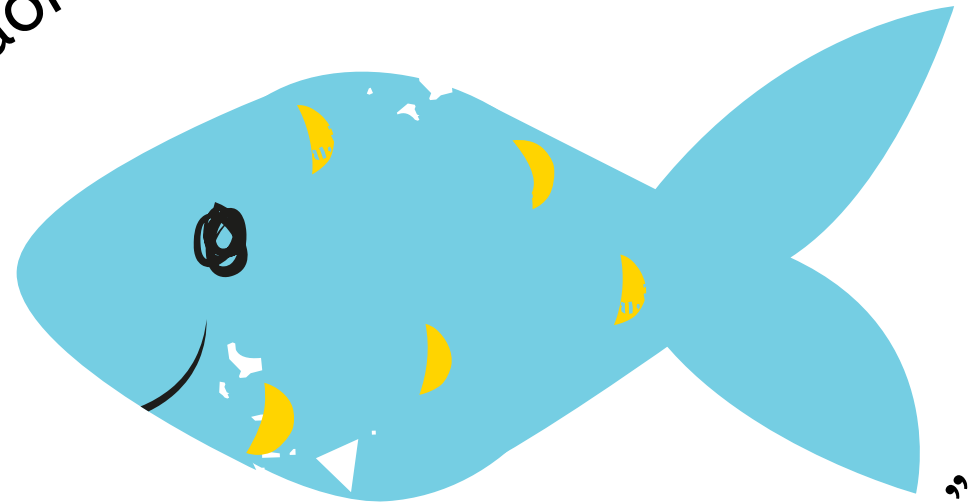
A feisty fish that was yellow and blue



It said to Piccolo,



“You don’t want me”

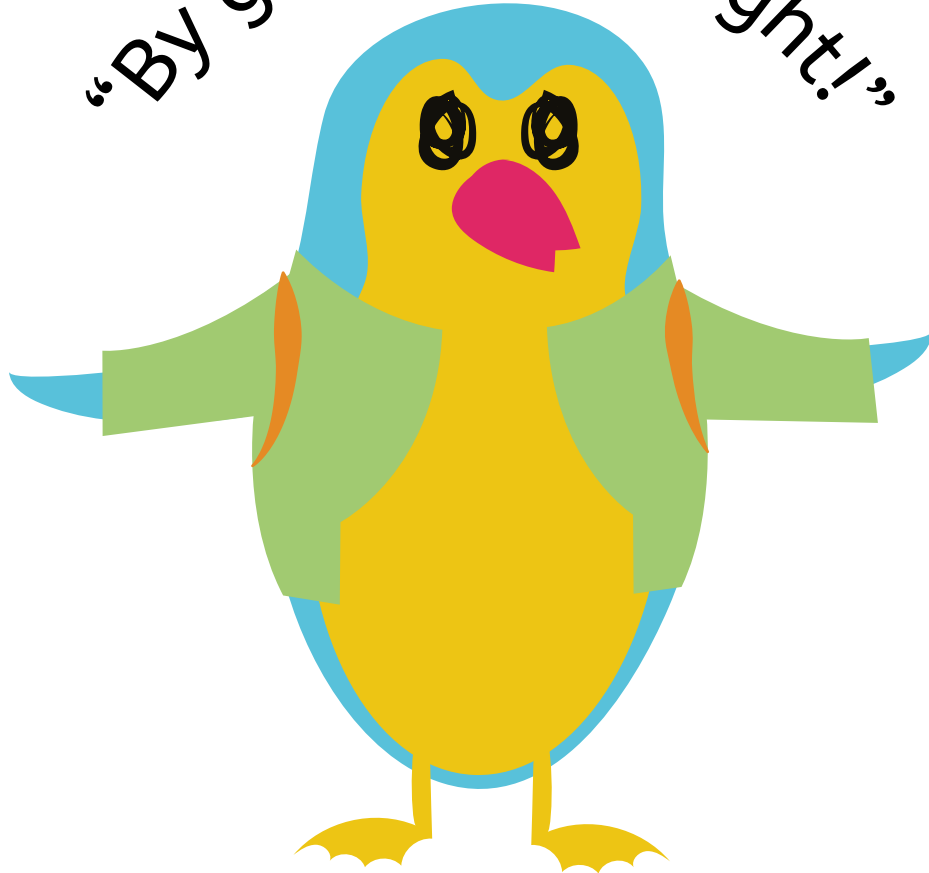


“There’s plenty more big fish in the sea”

Piccolo said,



“By gosh you’re right!”



“I think I’ve lost my
appetite!”



Sing along with the 1 2 3 4 5 Once I
Caught A Fish Alive Lyric Video





Click to watch and
sing along!



1 2 3 4 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive

1

"1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5"

One, two, three, four, five

Once I caught a fish alive

2

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten

Then I let it go again?

3

"Why did you let it go?"

"Because it bit my finger so."

(Ouch! Ooo)

"Which finger did it bite?"

"This little finger on my right."

4

5

Two, four, six, eight, ten

Piccolo caught a fish again

Ten, eight, six, four, two

A feisty fish that was yellow and blue

It said to Piccolo, "You don't want me."

"There's plenty more big fish in the sea."

Piccolo said, "By gosh you're right!"

"I think I've lost my appetite!"

