

4. Zero The Hero

Let me tell you about a number
That comes just before one
He always tells you just what you have
When you have none

He's Zero the Hero
Counting what you don't have is
his game
That's why Zero's his name

He's Zero the Hero
He's the super hero number that
always counts nothing, that's all
And he's shaped like a ball

If fifteen pennies is what you have
And you buy bubblegum
If fifteen pennies is what that gum cost
Then you have none

That's Zero the Hero
Counting what you don't have is
his game
That's why Zero's his name
He's Zero the Hero
He's the super hero number that
always counts nothing, that's all
And he's shaped like a ball

Let's break it down
You've got one hat
Take one away that's zero
You've got two socks
Take two away that's zero
You've got three bears
Take three away that's zero
You've got four birds
Take four away that's Zero the Hero
Counting what you don't have is
his game
That's why Zero's his name
He's Zero the Hero
He's the super hero number that
always counts nothing, that's all
And he's shaped like a ball
Let's spell it out
Z-E-R-O spells Zero
I said, Z-E-R-O spells zero
I said, Z-E-R-O spells zero
I said, Z-E-R-O spells Zero the Hero
Counting what you don't have is
his game
That's why Zero's his name
He's Zero the Hero
He's the super hero number that
always counts nothing that's all"
And he's shaped like a ball

Activity Suggestions

While this song attempts to link Zero and "nothing at all," a little visual aid during the tune will allow the kids to better grasp the concept. Find one hat, two socks, three bears and four birds to show and take away during the breakdown section. You can also give each child fifteen pennies (or have them bring it from home) to buy bubblegum in your "classroom store." During the spelling section, have the kids skywrite the word ZERO in the air with their finger. When you hear the line, "And he's shaped like a ball," have the kids make a zero/circle shape with their hands by touching thumbs at the top and the four fingers at the bottom, or show an actual ball. Have the kids write or dictate a story about Zero the Hero.