

Turtle Splash – Countdown at the Pond by *Cathryn Falwell* **How to use this book with your child**

Turtle Splash is a counting book and nature tale which takes place in a pond and features a countdown with the turtles, insects, birds, and mammals who live there. Catherine Falwell is a Maine author/illustrator who lives in Gorham, Maine.



As each new creature appears on the scene, one more turtle jumps off the log and into the water. The author made all of the collage artwork by hand using birch bark and leaf prints.

Here are some ways to use this book with your child:

- Look at the cover together and ask your child what she thinks the book is about.
- Point to the graphic of the numbers on the page as you read the number out loud during the turtle count down. As you re-read this book you can ask your child to tell you what the numbers are.
- Ask your child to point out the different animals on each page. (*Hint: there is a clue on each page about which bird, animal or insect will be featured on the preceding page!*)
- At the end of the book there is a resource page of all of the animals in the book. Try looking at this page with your child and talk about the different animals on the page, where they live, what they eat, etc.
- Try counting together to 10 and then counting backwards.

Most of all – have fun!