12 Ways to Get to 11 by Eve Merriam and Bernie Karlin

About the Story
12 Ways to Get to 11 is a counting book about decomposing, or breaking apart, the number 11 in various ways. Each page shows a different combination of objects, such as nine pinecones and two acorns. The story encourages children to think about counting objects in the world around them.

About the Math
To count the objects and figure out different ways to get to 11, your child can learn:

• We group and count all the like items together. For example, group and count the peanut shells together and then count all the popcorn pieces separately.
• We need to keep track of which objects we already counted so we don’t count each object more than once or miss any.
• We can break apart a group of objects into smaller groups.
• When we combine those smaller groups back together, we get the total number of objects.

Math Talk During Reading
PRACTICE COUNTING THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS ON EACH PAGE AND PUTTING ALL THE OBJECTS TOGETHER TO FIND THE TOTAL
How many pine cones are there? How many acorns are there? How many is that altogether?

EXPLORE COMPARING THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS IN EACH GROUP
Are there more acorns or pine cones? How do you know?

TALK ABOUT DECOMPOSING 11 IN A NEW WAY
Can you think of a different way to get to 11?

TRY TO COME UP WITH WAYS TO DECOMPOSE OTHER NUMBERS
Can you think of two ways to get to the number five?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments too!

Activity After Reading
COLLECT OBJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE THAT ADD UP TO 11
Let’s see if we can make a group of forks and a group of spoons that add up to 11 altogether.

Then collect objects around the house that add up to another number!