



# VOTING AND ELECTIONS

## LETTER OF THE DAY

V v

## BOOKS TO SHARE

*Democracy For Dinosaurs: A Guide For Young Citizens*  
**(non-fic)**  
by Laurene Krasny Brown

*A Vote Is A Powerful Thing*  
by Catherine Stier

*If I Ran For President* **(non-fic)**  
by Catherine Stier

*We Can Vote* **(non-fic)**  
by Ann Bonwill

*Around America To Win The Vote: Two Suffragists, A Kitten, And 10,000 Miles* **(non-fic)**  
by Mara Rockliff

*Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey To The Ballot Box*  
by Michael Bandy

*Amelia Bedelia's First Vote*  
by Herman Parish

*Vote For Me!*  
by Ben Clanton

*The President Of The Jungle*  
by André Rodrigues

*Grace For President*  
by Kelly DiPucchio

*The Next President* **(non-fic)**  
by Kate Messner

## FUN WITH FINGERPLAYS AND SONGS

### Casting Ballots

[Tune: "The Mulberry Bush"]

This is the way we cast our ballot,  
Cast our ballot, cast our ballot.  
This is the way we cast our ballot.  
On election day.

### Do You Know The Letter "V?"

[Tune: "Do You Know the Muffin Man?"]

Oh, have you seen the letter V  
The letter V, the letter V,  
Oh, have you seen the letter V?  
It makes the sound vuh-vuh.  
Oh, yes I've seen the letter V,  
The letter V, the letter V,  
Oh, yes I've seen the letter V,  
It makes the sound vuh-vuh.

### Show Me A One [fingerplay]

**\*Use this counting rhyme as a way to explain how votes are counted and added up after the polls have closed on Election Day.**

One, one, show me one.  
You got your one, you got your one.  
Two, two, show me two.  
You got your two, you got your two.  
Three, three, show me three.  
You got your three, you got your three.  
Four, four, show me four.  
You got your four, you got your four.  
Five, five, show me five.  
You got your five, you got your five.  
Show me **[choose a number at random]** right now.

## ASL SIGN OF THE DAY

"Vote"



The sign for "vote" looks like you are sticking a small piece of paper into a slot. Think of casting a ballot into a box.

Form your dominant hand into an "F" handshape with your pointer finger and thumb together.

Form your non-dominant hand into an "O" handshape.

Stick the tip of the thumb and the index finger into the "O."  
Use a quick downward movement.

**Note: There are so many great, kid-friendly resources to explore related to elections and voting. Here are a few of our favorites.**

"In The Neighborhood Voting Booth," Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, PBS Kids  
**(available on Youtube)**

"Steve Carrell -- Vote," Sesame Street,  
**(available on Youtube and SesameStreet.org)**

"Presley Talks About Voting," PBS Kids You Choose, PBS Kids  
**(available on Youtube)**

**As with any screen use, make sure to consider these tips from the Zero to Three child development organization (zerotothree.org):**

- Use media experiences to enhance learning. Talk about what you're seeing on screen, and then try to relate it to your family's everyday life. (Example: "Look, they're eating an apple! Remember how we went to the supermarket and bought apples this morning?")
- View, play, and engage in the screen experience with your child(ren) rather than leaving them alone during screen time.
- Try to avoid leaving tablets or television on in the background of daily life. This interrupts the child's time spent engaged in hands-on, real-world exploration. This is how young children learn.

**MORE FUN!**

***Even very young children can begin to understand the concept of voting as a way in which we make group decisions. Make it more realistic and relatable by holding a mock election of your own.***

### **DIY Ballot Box And Mock Election**

#### **Materials:**

Empty cereal or snack box  
Construction paper  
Scissors  
Tape and/or glue  
Blank paper and writing utensils  
(Optional) markers



Cover your box with construction paper and decorate however you wish!

Then, cut a small slit in the top of the box (big enough to put folded ballots inside, but not big enough for your child(ren) to stick their whole hands inside).

***Talk about how ballots are secret, and only the election workers are allowed to open the box and count the ballots inside.***

Decide together what you will be voting on. Cats vs. dogs, pizza vs. hotdogs, etc. Make out simple ballots that have each 'candidate' listed and a box next to each to check when voting.

***Talk about how, even though it's tough, you can only vote for one of the 'candidates' -- just like in a real election.***

When everyone in your household has voted, open the ballot box and use tallying the votes as an opportunity to practice counting together.

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