

Lyrics

Nothing has a name (a song about zero)

Lyrics and music by Lucy Rycroft-Smith & Belle Rycroft-Smith
with Sam Hartburn, Tilly Flint & Maureen Donnelly



Zero is the number that goes before one
Nought is like 'O' but we use it to mean none
Nil is the score when you don't have any
Nothing's what you have when you haven't got a penny
Blank is the space when there's nothing there
Empty is the bag or the bucket or the chair
And all these words show the same big idea!

Let's go back around to...

Zero is the number that goes before one
Zero is like 'O' but we use it to mean none
Zero is the score when you don't have any
Zero's what you have when you haven't got a penny
Zero is the space when there's nothing there
Zero in the bag or the bucket or the chair
And zero is the big idea!

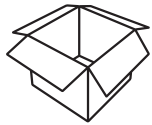
Let's go back around to...

Let's go back around to...

Let's go back around to...

Let's go back around to...

Zero and nought and nil and nothing and blank and empty and zilch zip nada



This song was developed as part of the Tappy Math(s) project, a research-informed collaboration to co-design songs to support the teaching and learning of early mathematical concepts for children aged 3–6. The project draws on current research in early mathematics education and was supported through funding from CREATEd, a project of the Center for Research Use in Education (CRUE) at the University of Delaware (USA). For further information on the research that informed this song you can read:

[Cohrsen, C., Fielding, J. & Bird, J. Informal Assessment of Preschool Children's Concepts of Zero. Early Childhood Educ J 53, 891–902 \(2025\). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-024-01634-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-024-01634-8)

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