Ten in the bed

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell  
Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Poetry; Picture books;  
Subject: Songs--Juvenile fiction; Counting rhymes--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Parents will recognize the title of this picture book as a counting game they may have played with their children, which goes "There were ten in the bed and the Little One said, 'I'm crowded! Roll over!' So, they all rolled over and one fell out! There were nine in the bed ...." *Ten in the Bed* is a charming version with fun additions! The Little One is a mouse dressed in blue footed pajamas complete with stocking cap, and the nine others in bed are other animals. The Little One says, "Move over, move over" and the rhyme changes as each animals falls out of the bed. For example, when it comes to the monkey's turn (the monkey is a doctor) the rhyme goes, "So they all groaned over and the doctor fell out." Animals include a rabbit (astronaut); a girl dog (princess); a bear (pilot); a boy dog (pirate); a chipmunk (ballerina); a monkey (doctor); an alligator (trumpeter); a cat (cook); and a duck (snorer).

The boldly colored illustrations show the animals left in bed reflecting the same occupation as the animal who is about to fall out—such as the alligator who trumpets away as the others dance in bed under a disco ball and the monkey with his stethoscope ready to examine the six remaining bandaged animals. This is a cute bedtime story and reverse counting book.