I have a family strange indeed
Each member goes a different speed
They can walk for half a day
Counting footsteps all the way.

Here's number one (It's Auntie Prim!)
from Marsha Johnson

My name is Prim
I'm tall and thin
My walk is straight
My clothes are trim
Count my footsteps
And you'll see
That every one's
The same for me.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 etc.

Here's number two (It's Grandpa Hugh!)
from Marsha Johnson -- get out your "cane"
step harder on every second step

But MY two STEPS are NOT the SAME
For I must LEAN upON my CANE
ALTHOUGH I'm BENT and WEAK and OLD
I STILL can WALK with FOOTsteps BOLD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 etc.

Here's number three (It's little Timmy!)
from Marsha Johnson - get out your "ball"
step in a short, short, long pattern (bounce, bounce, reach for your ball)

I'm a LAD
Bright and GAY
I would MUCH
Rather PLAY
I can RUN
With my BALL
While my FOOT
Steps I CALL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 etc.
Here’s number four (It’s Cousin Lenore!)
from Marsha Johnson / Barbara Dewey
march and step harder on every fourth step

  My step is STRONG
  I'll not go WRONG
  With all my MIGHT
  I'll guard what’s RIGHT
  I'll always KNOW
  How far to GO.

  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12 etc.

Here’s number five (It’s Cousin Clive!)
from Marsha Johnson
tiptoe like a ballet dancer for verse and then leap for each number

  Carefully I go
  On my tippy toe
  Looking to the left
  Looking to the right
  Lightly I arrive
  I am number five

  5  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55  60 etc.

Here’s number six (It’s the Elf Beatrix!)
from Barbara Dewey
skip five times and hop on sixth beat

  One, two, three, four, five, SIX
  I can do lots of TRICKS.
  I’ve a friend -- number THREE --
  He’s a helper to ME.
  He has taught me to PLAY.
  But I have my own WAY.

  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12 etc.
Here’s number seven (It’s the Witch Raven!)
wiggle fingers like casting a spell and then clap on last syllable
excerpt from Macbeth, Act IV, Scene I [Round about the cauldron go]

Round about the cauldron GO [...]  
Fillet of a fenny SNAKE,  
In the cauldron boil and BAKE;  
Eye of newt and toe of FROG,  
Wool of bat and tongue of DOG,  
Adder’s fork and blind-worm’s STING,  
Lizard’s leg and howlet’s WING [...]  
Scale of dragon, tooth of WOLF,  
Witches’ mummy, maw and GULF  
Of the ravin’d salt-sea SHARK  

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 etc.

Here’s number eight (It’s her cat, Hecate!)  
creep around the room and pounce on last syllable  
"On Guard" from My Cat Has Eyes of Sapphire Blue by Aileen Fisher, p.4

Oh, sweep the floor, but watch the BROOM!  
A mini-tiger stalks this ROOM,  
Prepared to pounce, to bring to DOOM  
A monster vicious as a BROOM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 etc.

Here’s number nine (It’s the Gnome Crystalline!)  
"Treasures" from The Waldorf Book of Poetry edited by David Kennedy, p.7  
get out your "hammer"  
tap with fingertips and knock with knuckles on last syllable

Through echoing caves we run and GLIDE,  
Through cracks in the rocks we slip and SLIDE,  
Over great boulders we leap and BOUNCE;  
Little lamps show where treasure is FOUND.  
We hammer, hammer from morn till NIGHT,  
We hammer, hammer treasure so BRIGHT,  
Sparkling silver, glittering GOLD,  
Crystals so pure and clear to beHOLD.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 etc.
Here's number ten (It's the Giant Sven!)
from Marsha Johnson
take big steps pretending you're a giant

    A giant am I, just sauntering BY
    To number so high I quickly will FLY.

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 etc.

These number verses have been compiled from a variety of sources.

Verses for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 were adapted from an anonymous poem from a long-ago Waldorf teacher. Movement suggestions have been provided by Marsha Johnson, who also created the names for 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Verses for 7, 8, and 9 were chosen by me, inspired by the Dorothy Harrer poem “From Big Voice to Tiny Voice,” found in Verses and Poems and Stories to Tell, page 3. This book is available in its entirety as a FREE download at the Online Waldorf Library. https://www.waldorflibrary.org/books/3/view/52/ebooks/149/verses-and-poems-stories-to-tell-ebook

I have named the characters for 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, inspired by Dorothy Harrer’s poem. New verses match the characters I’ve created and their sources have been cited here. Each verse has been very slightly modified to match the desired syllable patterns. For 6, 7, 8, and 9, I’ve also created movements.

Please let me know if you have any questions,
Renee Schwartz