

Back-to-School Activity Guide



Kindergarten

About This Guide

Entering kindergarten is a milestone for all children. We've put together this packet of fun activities and skill-builders for you to enjoy with your child during the summer months, so once it's time to send your kindergartener to school, he or she will be prepared. Each activity has been selected to draw on prior knowledge—from preschool and your life at home—and is a sneak peek of what your child will learn in kindergarten.

Table of Contents

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist	3
Reading & Language Arts	
Summer Reading List.	4
Jump for a Rhyme.	5
Upper & Lower Case Concentration Game	6
Action Words.	9
Social Studies	
Career Poster.	11
The Traffic Light.	12
Science	
The Five Senses.	13
Practice Classifying.	14
Math	
Telling Time.	15
Count the Objects.	16
Weight & Measure.	17
Patterns in Numbers.	18
Spider Count.	20
General Classroom Advice	
Elementary Supply List.	21
Cold & Flu Prevention Checklist.	22

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

While there's no perfect formula for determining when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this guide to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists. Check the skills your child has mastered. Recheck each month to see what additional skills your child can accomplish easily. Young children change so fast. Remember that if your child can't do something this week, she may be able to do it a few weeks later!

- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Recognize rhyming sounds
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understand that actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes
- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, and coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify rhyming words
- Identify the beginning sound of some words
- Identify some alphabet letters
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop"
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
- Count to ten
- Bounce a ball

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this checklist and will be at least five years old at the start of the summer before kindergarten, he or she is probably ready for kindergarten. What teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable, and eager to learn.

Summer Reading List Grades K-2



***Make Way for Ducklings* / by Robert McCloskey**

It's not easy for duck parents to find a safe place to raise their ducklings, but during a rest stop in Boston's Public Garden, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard think they just might have found the perfect spot. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them.

***Lon Po Po* / by Ed Young**

This is the Chinese version of the traditional story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Three sisters, Shang, Tao, and Paozte, must defend themselves against a frightening wolf while their mother is away visiting their grandmother for her birthday.

***Miss Nelson is Missing* / by Harry Allard**

The students in Miss Nelson's class have difficulty following the rules and being respectful. One day Miss Nelson concocts an ingenious plan and disappears, making it necessary for substitute "Viola Swamp" to take over. Soon the children are inundated with homework and have their story time taken away. Eventually, Miss Nelson comes back to a much-improved class that appreciates her.

***The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* / by Chris Van Allsburg**

A Caldecott Honor winner, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* charms readers with its engaging storyline and brilliant pencil drawings. The adventure begins when Alan loses Fritz, the dog he is sitting for. Fritz wanders into a garden owned by a former magician. Alan hopelessly looks for Fritz and to his dismay thinks that the dog has been turned into a duck by the old magician.

***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* / by Laura Joffe Numeroff**

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie is a wonderful tale of a boy who tries to meet the demands of a very needy mouse. Young readers will come away smiling at the mischief in this delightful picture book.

***The Little Engine That Could* / by Watty Piper**

The Little Engine That Could is a classic tale of a determined railroad engine that, despite its small size, triumphantly pulls a train full of toys to the waiting children on the other side of a mountain.

***So You Want to Be President?* / by Judith St. George**

So you want to be president! Why not? From the embarrassment of John Quincy Adams to the mischievous adventure of Theodore Roosevelt's pony, Judith St. George shares the backroom facts, the spitfire comments, and the comical anecdotes that have been part and parcel of America's White House. Hilariously illustrated by Caldecott Honor-winning artist David Small, this celebration shows us the foibles, quirks, and the humanity of men who have risen to one of the most powerful positions in the world.



Linguistic Awareness

MAKING PROGRESS: Rhyming

What You Need:

- rhyming dictionary such as The Scholastic Rhyming Dictionary (Scholastic, Inc., 1994) or online at www.rhymezone.com
- list of pairs of rhyming words
- list of pairs of non-rhyming words

What You Do:

1. Model the activity for your child. Say a pair of words that rhyme. For example, say, “Cat-bat. The end of those words sounds the same...The words rhyme. I’m going to jump for a rhyme!”
2. Say a pair of words that do not rhyme. Tell your child, “Those words don’t rhyme, so I’ll just sit down.”
3. Play the game with your child, beginning with several pairs that rhyme, and then add in some pairs that don’t rhyme.



Variation:

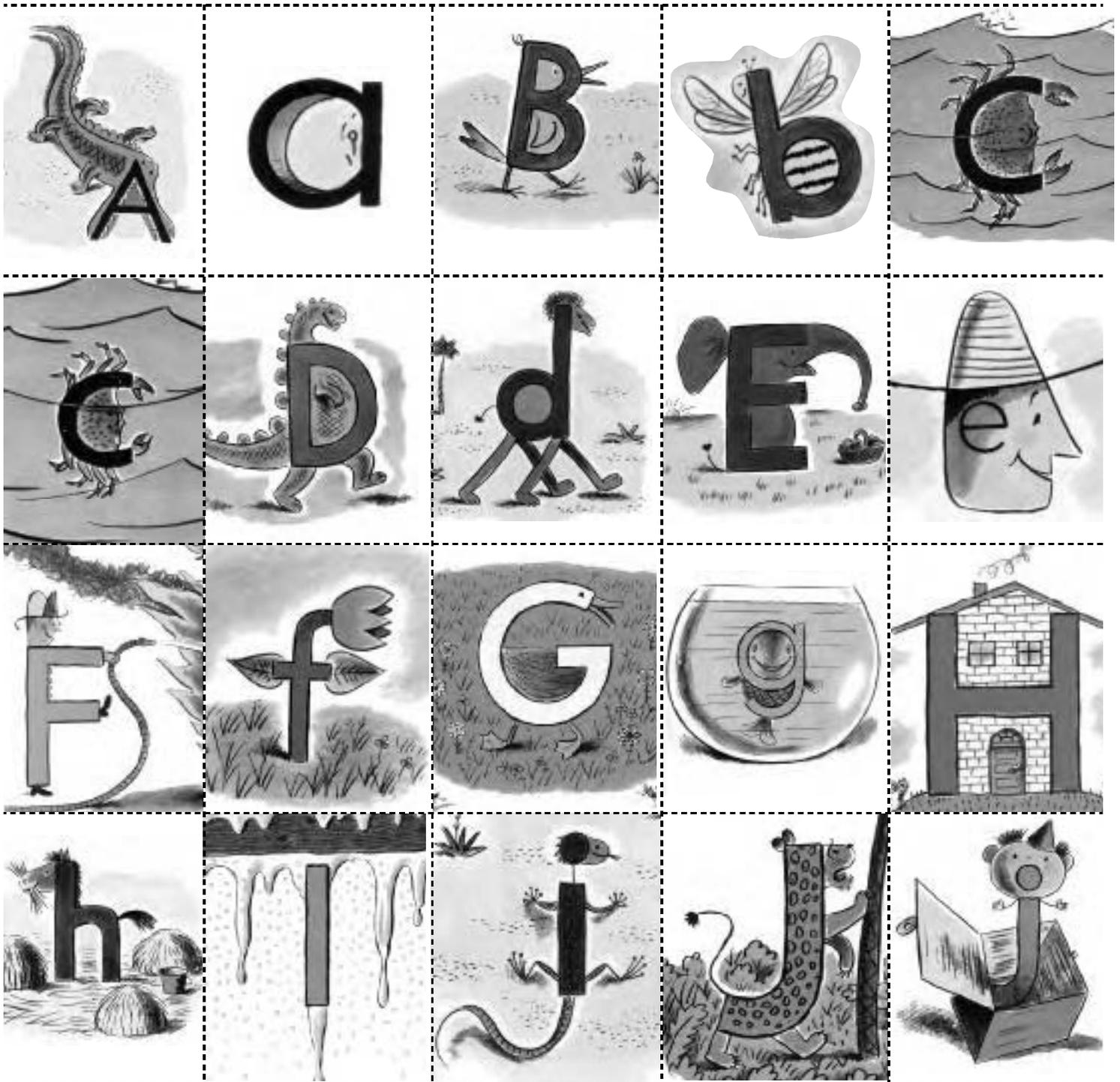
- To adjust level of activity, begin with one-syllable words and progress to two- and three-syllable words.

Why?

Your child will become aware of rhymes and learn to identify them.

UPPER AND LOWER CASE CONCENTRATION

Paste these three pages onto pieces of construction paper. Cut out each of the cards on the dotted line. Shuffle the cards and place them face down on the playing surface. The first player turns two cards face up. If they are the upper and lower case of the same letter they are taken off the board and that player goes again. The player with the most matches at the end of the game is the winner.





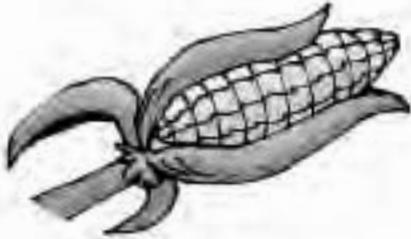


George hopes you have fun playing his Alphabet Game.

Grammar: Action Words (Verbs)



Directions: Circle the pictures that show an action.



Home Activity: Have your child name action words shown in the pictures on this page.

Grammar: Action Words (Verbs)



Directions: Circle the pictures that show an action.



Career Poster

Grade Levels: Pre-K—2



Objectives

- Children will learn about different careers
- Children will create a "Career Collage" poster

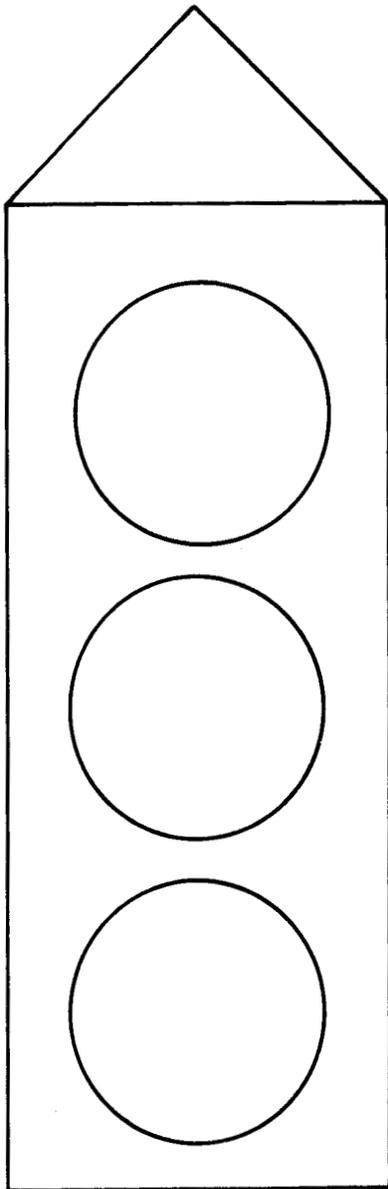
Materials

- Poster board or construction paper
- Magazines and newspapers

Procedures

1. Invite your child to look for pictures in magazines, newspapers, and other sources that show people at work. Encourage your child to check sports pages, movie ads, and kids' sections for some creative examples.
2. Help your child brainstorm a list of careers.
3. Write your child's ideas on a piece of paper.
4. Ask your child to select one of the careers from the list.
5. Direct your child to find pictures of the career he or she picked in the magazines and newspapers.
6. Help your child choose at least three pictures of the career and neatly cut them out.
7. Create a "Career Collage" by displaying the names of the careers and the cut-out pictures on a large sheet of paper or poster board.

The Traffic Light



Stop

Wait

Go

1. A traffic light helps keep us safe. It shows us when to stop.

What color is the stop light? _____

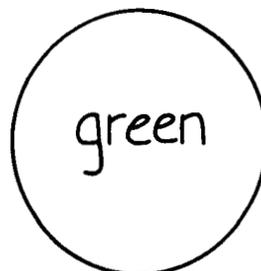
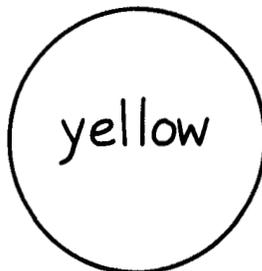
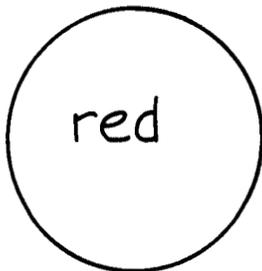
2. It shows us when to wait. The wait light is

_____.

3. It shows us when to go. This light is

_____.

Color the lights the correct colors. Cut them out and paste them on the traffic light.



The Five Senses

Match each sense to its part of the body:

Touch *

*



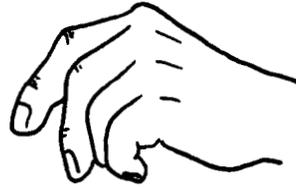
Taste *

*



Smell *

*



Hearing *

*



Sight *

*

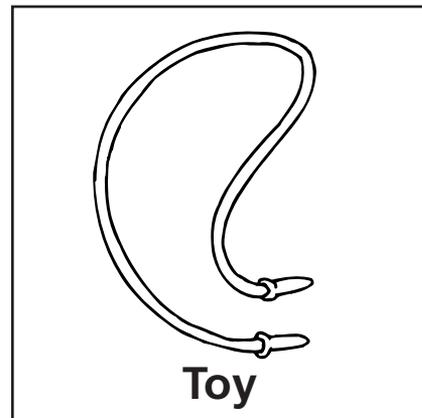
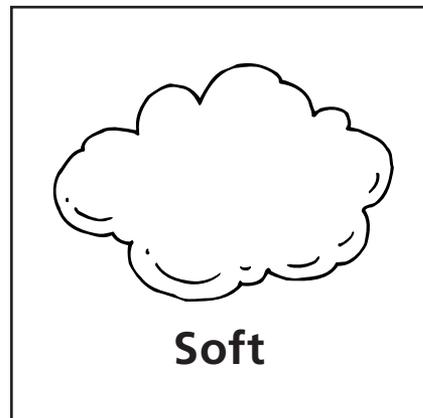
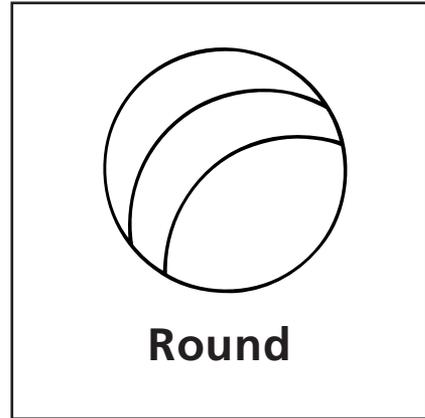
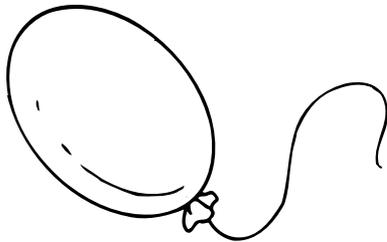
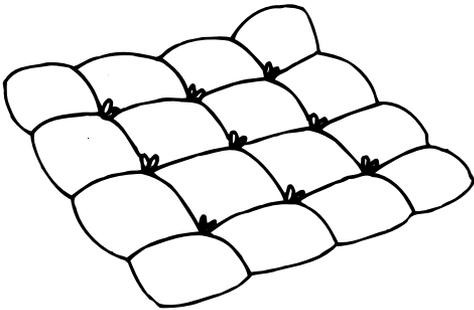
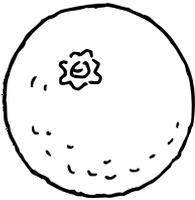
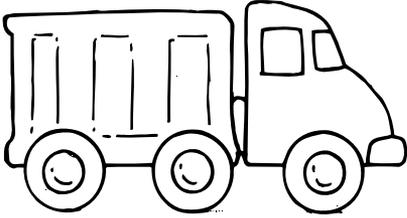


Name one of your favorite things:

What senses help you to enjoy your favorite thing?

Practice Classifying

Draw a line to match.

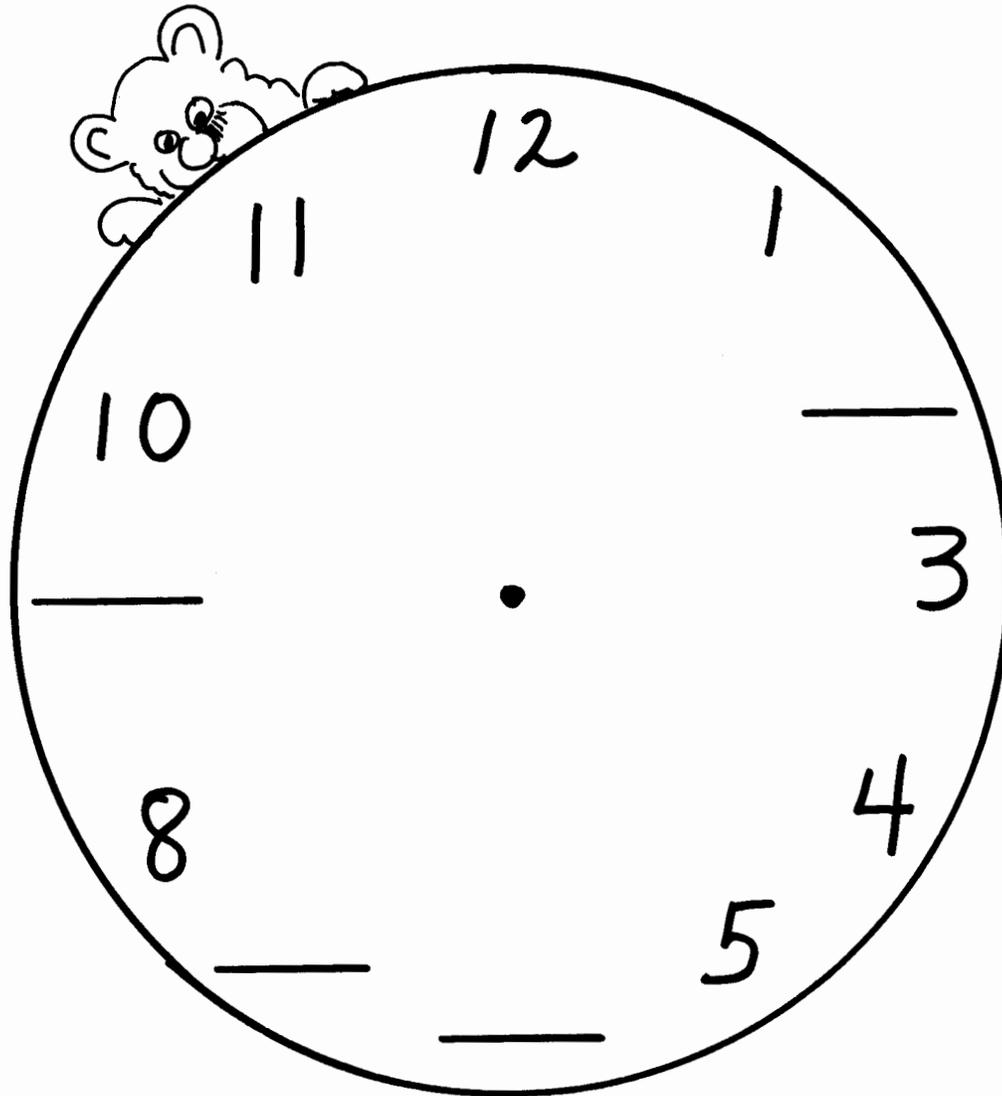


Notes for Home Your child drew lines to match pictures with words that describe them.

Home Activity: The next time you and your child are cleaning up toys, ask your child to sort the toys into groups. Point to two toys and invite your child to tell you why he or she placed those two objects in the same group.

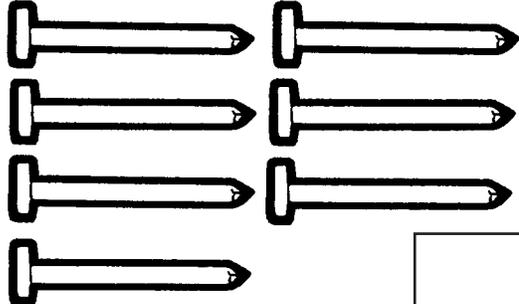
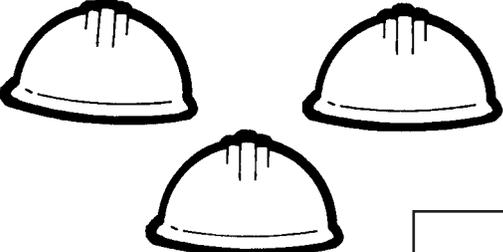
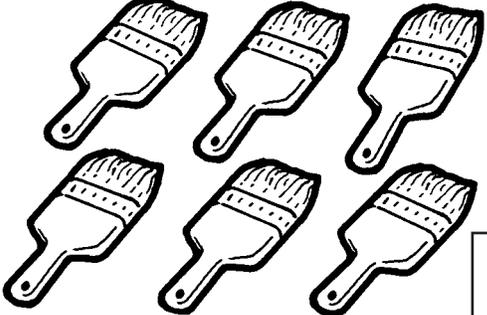
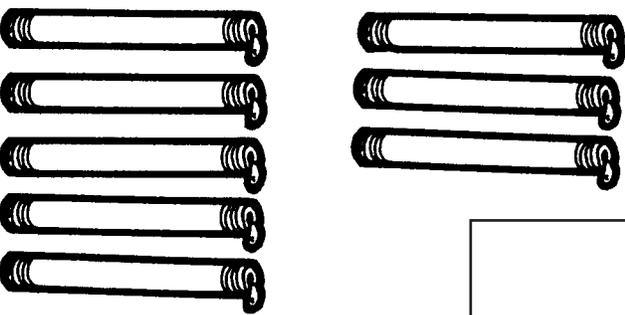
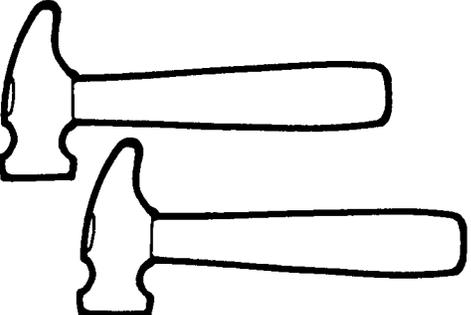
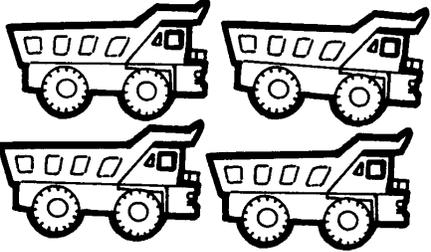
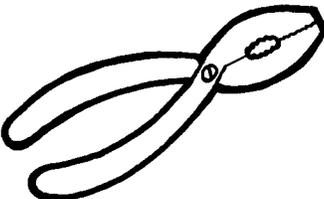
Telling Time

Fill in the missing numbers on the clock. Show 5 o'clock by drawing in the hands. Then, on the back of this sheet, draw a picture of what you do at 5 o'clock.



Count the Objects

Directions: Count the objects. Write the correct number in each box.

 <input data-bbox="641 672 795 787" type="text"/>	 <input data-bbox="1307 672 1461 787" type="text"/>
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Dear Family,

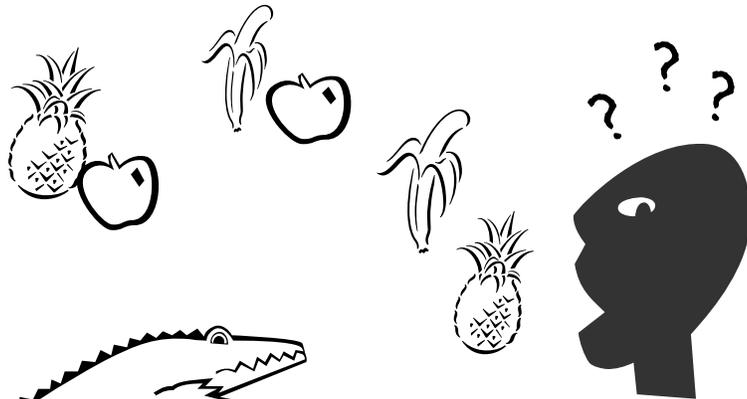
We will be learning how to estimate and measure how long things are, how much they weigh, and how much they can hold. I can practice by going to the grocery store with you. Here are some things we can do together.

Weight and Measure

Hold a different fruit in each hand. Tell which is lighter and which is heavier.

Place two vegetables side-by-side.

Tell which is shorter and which is longer.



Community Connection

Play a "Can you find" game by asking your child to find a vegetable that is longer or shorter than a carrot or a fruit that is bigger or smaller than an orange.

Visit our Web site. www.parent.mathsurf.com

Patterns in Numbers

Circle the number that is missing.

1 2 ____ 4 5	3 6
3 4 5 ____ 7	8 6
2 4 6 8 ____	10 9
5 4 3 ____ 1	6 2
1 3 5 ____ 9	6 7
10 9 8 ____ 6	7 4

Notes for Home Your child completed number patterns. *Home Activity:* Ask your child to explain his or her reasoning.

Patterns in Numbers

Circle the number that is missing.

1 2 _____ 4 5

3 6

3 4 5 _____ 7

8 **6**

2 4 6 8 _____

10 9

5 4 3 _____ 1

6 **2**

1 3 5 _____ 9

6 **7**

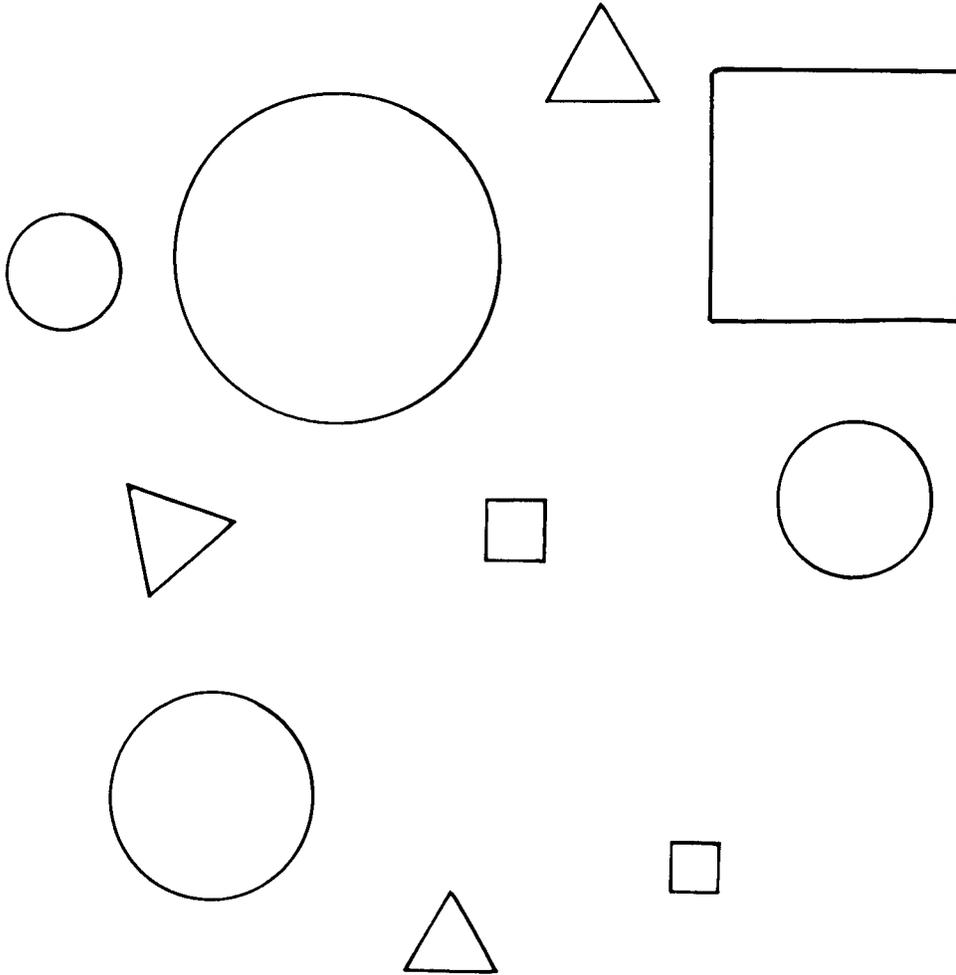
10 9 8 _____ 6

7 4

Notes for Home Your child completed number patterns. *Home Activity:* Ask your child to explain his or her reasoning.

Spider Count

Make spiders by adding eyes, legs, and spots to these shapes. Then count the spiders and write the answers below.



1. _____ are circle spiders.
2. _____ are strange spiders.
3. _____ are square spiders.
4. _____ are big spiders.
5. _____ are triangle spiders.
6. _____ are small spiders.
7. There are _____ spiders all together.

Elementary Supply List

Parents,

Your children are very excited about beginning a new school year. Please make every effort to purchase all of the supplies on the list. In advance I want to thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

- 1 container of baby wipes
- 1 back pack
- 1 calculator
- 1 box of 64 crayons
- 2 erasers
- 4 glue sticks
- 3 different colored highlighters
- 1 pack of index cards
- 1 pack of water-based markers
- 1 pencil box
- 2 pencil sharpeners
- 10 pencils
- 6 pocket folders
- 1 pack of Post-it Notes®
- 2 boxes of facial tissues
- 1 inch/cm ruler
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 roll of Scotch tape
- 1 three ring binder (2-3 inches)
- 1 pack of wide-ruled notebook paper

Grade Levels:	Pre-K - 5
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Cold and Flu Prevention Checklist



Stay Home If You're Sick

We want to teach our kids the importance of working hard, but it's just good sense to stay home from work or school when you're sick, to prevent the spread of cold and flu germs.

Keep Your Hands Clean

You never know what germs you might be picking up in the course of the day. It's a good idea to wash your hands frequently, especially before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the bathroom. Use warm water and soap, and make sure you lather up for 20 seconds!

Cover Your Nose & Mouth When Coughing or Sneezing

Avoid spreading cold and flu germs to others by coughing or sneezing into a tissue. If none is available, don't cough or sneeze into your hands! Instead, turn your head away from nearby people and, if necessary, aim for your shoulder.

Don't Touch Your Eyes, Nose, or Mouth

Germs that might otherwise languish on your hands can easily infiltrate your system when you rub your face. Try to keep your hands away from your face as much as you reasonably can.

Get Plenty of Rest

Your body works overtime to hunt and destroy harmful germs when you're resting or relaxed, but high stress levels leave you susceptible to invasion. Get some rest and give your white blood cells the time they need to do their job.

Avoid Unnecessary Close Contact

It's an unfortunate fact that a person can spread flu germs a full day before exhibiting symptoms, and then up to five days after that. Steer clear of those with flu-like symptoms—they'll understand. And if you're sick, avoid close contact with others.

Eat Plenty of Fruits & Vegetables

Eating right is always important, but particularly during cold and flu season. The vitamins and minerals found in fruits and vegetables can buttress your body's immune system against invaders.

Get Fresh Air & Exercise

It's a myth that low temperatures cause cold and flu. In fact, the culprit is increased, prolonged contact with greater numbers of people. Going outside for a walk means you'll get exercise and get away from potential germ-bearers.