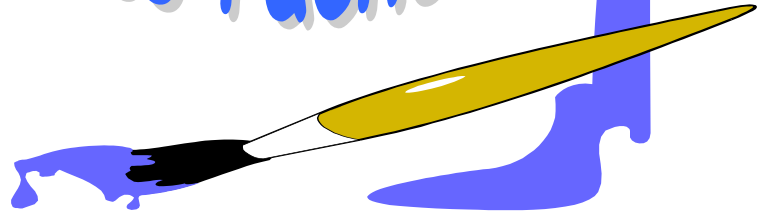


Kindergarten, Here I Come!
"Summer Readiness Packet"



Talking to Your Child About Kindergarten

Kindergarten is Just Around The Corner

As kindergarten approaches, your child may have some questions that have gone unspoken. Anticipating kindergarten can be frightening for your child. Following are some questions and thoughts your child may have:

- Why do I have to go to kindergarten?
- Will I get to play with my old friends again?
- Will my teacher be nice?
- Do I have to be quiet in kindergarten?
- What if I don't have time to eat?
- What will the teacher do if the kids aren't good?
- Do I get to play in kindergarten?

Imagine yourself as a five-year-old with all these thoughts and questions running through your head. It is easy to understand why some children are so apprehensive about going on to kindergarten. Talk to your child throughout the summer about what they can expect in kindergarten. Visit the school and look at the classrooms. Walk the halls and talk about location of the playground, lunchroom, etc. Encourage your child to ask you questions that are concerning them. Doing all these things may not guarantee you and your child a smooth first day of kindergarten, but it's one of the best ways to prepare for the change and may in the long run help make the adjustment easier.

Kindergarten Concepts to Work on at Home

Please familiarize your child with the concepts and skills listed below. Take time to go over the activities included in this packet. Your child will enjoy the extra time you spend together.

- Has experience with upper and lower case letters of the alphabet
- Has experience with the numbers 1-10
- Can count five or more objects
- Recognizes his or her first name, spoken and written
- Traces simple lines
- Cuts on simple lines with scissors
- Recognizes basic colors
- Identifies basic shapes
- Interacts with books
- Can attend to a given task
- Can focus his or her attention for a 10 minute or longer period
- Can separate from his or her family without anxiety (i.e. without prolonged crying, tantrums, tummy aches)
- Can accept guidance from adults other than parents (i.e. following directions, following rules)
- Is interested in academics (i.e. drawing pictures, holding a pencil, quietly looking at books, writing name, interacting with other children)

Preparing for Kindergarten

The move from preschool to "real school" is exciting (and often tearful) for both children and parents. There's a lot you can do to make the transition to kindergarten enjoyable.

- **Making Friends with the School** - Point out the school as you drive by or walk past and say, "That's your school!" Attend Kindergarten Orientation together, taking the opportunity to tour the school and meet the principal and teachers.
- **Learning Social Skills** - *Sharing* is a regular part of the day in kindergarten. Help your children learn to take turns by sharing toys, crayons, and games with friends and family members. *Waiting* is tough for preschoolers, but you can help him or her get used to it by saying things like, "We'll go to the park after lunch." Teach your child to *communicate* with words, not actions, when upset. Emphasize that screaming, crying, hitting, kicking and other "temper tantrum" behavior is not acceptable.
- **Listening is important** - Teach your child to look at the person who's doing the talking. Work with your child on paying attention and following simple directions: (Example: " Please put your pillow on your bed, and then put your shoes in the closet.")
- **Loosen the Apron Strings** - If your child isn't already attending preschool or day care, look for ways for him or her to spend some time apart from you. Trade off with a friend or sign your child up in a community or church program for preschoolers.
- **All by Myself** - Your child should know how to zip, snap, tie, button, and fasten Velcro. Be sure that your little one can also take care of his or her bathroom needs well before the first day of school.
- **Begin with the Basics** - Go beyond teaching your child the "ABC" song by exposing them to letters, especially letters that spell his or her name. Talk about the colors and shapes around you - the round clock, the red umbrella. Make simple counting a part of your preschooler's day by counting aloud as you put each piece of silverware in the drawer, climb stairs, or bring in bags of groceries. Help your little one learn important concepts by "acting out" the differences between up and down, in and out, high and low, over and under, small and tall.
- **Ensure a Healthy Start** - Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date. A complete physical before the start of school, including vision and hearing tests, is also a good idea. Start your preschooler on a school day regimen of bedtime and wake-up time several weeks before school starts. At this age, a child should have ten hours of sleep.

Most importantly, understand that your child is unique and will learn at his or her own pace. So don't become frustrated if your child fails to master simple skills right away. The best thing you can do to prepare your preschooler for kindergarten is to invest as much time as possible helping him or her learn new skills. The long-term results will be worth your efforts.

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NAESP 98-2

How You May Help

By placing the same importance on kindergarten that your child does, you take the first step in sharing this new adventure with him or her. Remember he or she is entering a whole new world and needs the security of your interest and enthusiasm. Like most parents, you are probably eager and anxious to help him or her, but perhaps you feel a bit bewildered about how to begin. May we suggest that you:

1. Show interest in your child's school work. Praise what he or she makes and brings home. Pin up his or her drawings and ask him or her to tell you about them. Don't run the risk of offending him or her by asking what they are.
2. Take time to listen. Provide a leisurely, relaxed atmosphere and make it his or her time alone with you. You can encourage him or her to speak clearly and in sentences by speaking that way to him or her. Children learn to speak by imitation. Is your enthusiasm stifled and self-confidence shattered, if you are constantly corrected? So is his or hers!
3. Give your child simple tasks to do at home. Your praise and encouragement satisfy his or her desire to be needed by the family. Watch his or her sense of responsibility and independence grow when given a chance to help.
4. Plan family trips and outings that stimulate his or her interests and widen his or her range of experiences. As he or she becomes more interested in the world, the world finds him or her more interesting.
5. Avoid discussing your child in his or her presence. Comparing him or her favorably or unfavorably with other children may ignore his or her individuality. Think in terms of your child's ability, not some other child's. Remember each child is different.
6. Never make perfection your goal in considering your child's growth and development. Consider where he or she was six months or a year ago and then evaluate where he or she is today. Children always progress by ups and downs. Don't you?
7. Encourage your child's friendships with other children in his or her class and in the neighborhood. You will enjoy knowing these children and their parents, too.
8. Make your child's school yours also. Visit often. Get acquainted with your child's new school friends. Volunteer to help occasionally. Join the P.T.A.!
9. Make attendance a priority. Being in school on time everyday will set your child up for success. Research shows that early issues with attendance can have a big impact on student achievement!

THINKING ABOUT CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR KINDERGARTEN YEAR, WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS, SKILLS, TRAITS AND ASSETS THEY BROUGHT TO SCHOOL ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN?

Summary Report from Kindergarten Teachers Summit in San Diego

Family Support

Involvement of the parent (s) with the child; supplies available at home; parents have set expectations and limits with consequences and follow-through, along with praise and reward; parents understand role in relationship to the school/teacher.

Personal Characteristics

Enthusiastic, self-confident, strong verbal language skills, patient and able to listen, respects authority, accepts responsibility for actions, takes pride in work, and is able to organize.

Prior Exposure to Learning / School Materials

Exposed to books, letters, singing, rhyming, colors, numbers, cutting with scissors, pencils, etc. Has had an imaginative and fun play experiences.

Development Skills

Can separate from parent, has fine motor skill development, can follow directions, can accomplish self-care tasks independently, can sit quietly, and has developed mental coordination and organization. There was a significant discussion about age for entry to kindergarten, with most teachers advocating a minimum age of 5.

Physical and Emotional Needs

Has eaten breakfast; has a nutritious, healthy diet; has sufficient sleep, clean clothes and shelter; expects to be valued and has emotional needs met.

Relationships to Others / Group Behavior

Compassionate, tolerant, able to share, able to read social cues, and able to cooperate and get along with others.



This packet is divided into five sections. All five sections are important in enhancing and developing your child's skills as you help prepare him or her for kindergarten.

Section 1: The Alphabet

Section 2: Writing, Tracing, and Cutting

Section 3: Numbers, Colors, and Shapes

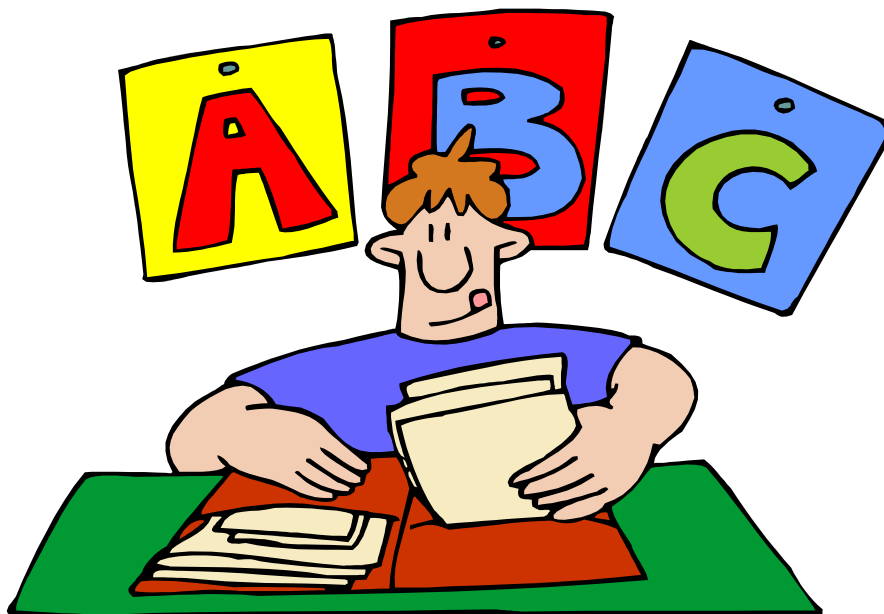
Section 4: Reading Together and Picking Good Books

Section 5: Sparking Creativity



SECTION 1

The Alphabet



Alphabet Cards

You can use the Uppercase and Lowercase Alphabet Cards for the following:

Sing the ABC song:

Before you cut out the letters, you can sing the ABC song with your child and point to each letter as you say it.

After you have sung the song with your child for a few days you can cut on the lines and mix the cards. Use these cards to help your child recognize each letter. You can continue to sing the song with your child while he or she learns the name of the letters.

The Memory Game: *(If your child is ready for this)*

This game will help your child learn to match the uppercase and lowercase letters, for example, A-a, B-b, C-c, etc.

Combine the upper and lowercase letters together and mix them up. Place the letters face down so that you cannot see the letters. Have your child choose two cards and turn them over so that you can see the letters. If the letters match, your child can keep the cards. If the letters do not match, your child should turn the cards over and try again. Continue playing until all the letters have been matched. The same rules apply for whoever is playing with your child. The great thing about this game is that there are never too many or not enough players. The game can be played by one person or many.

Remember that you may want to start small by using five or six uppercase letters and their matching lower case letters. If you include too many letters before your child is ready he or she may get frustrated which may cause him or her to dislike the game rather than enjoy it.

A

B

C

D

E

F

Alphabet Cards-Uppercase Letters

G

H

I

J

K

L

Alphabet Cards-Uppercase Letters

M

N

O

P

Q

R

Alphabet Cards- Uppercase Letters

S

T

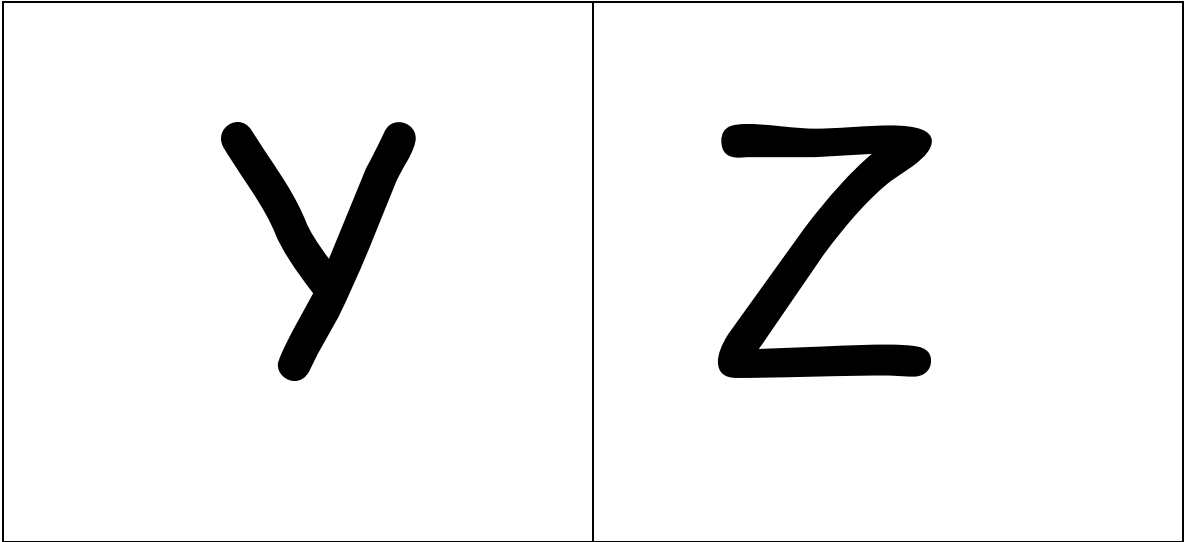
U

V

W

X

Alphabet Cards - Uppercase Letters



Alphabet Cards -Uppercase Letters

a

b

c

d

e

f

Alphabet Cards- Lowercase Letters

g

h

i

j

k

l

Alphabet Cards -Lowercase Letters

m

n

o

p

q

r

Alphabet Cards - Lowercase Letters

s

t

u

v

w

x

Alphabet Cards - Lowercase Letters

y

z

Alphabet Cards - Lowercase Letters

SECTION 2

Writing, Tracing, and Cutting



Tracing the Lines - pages 21-26

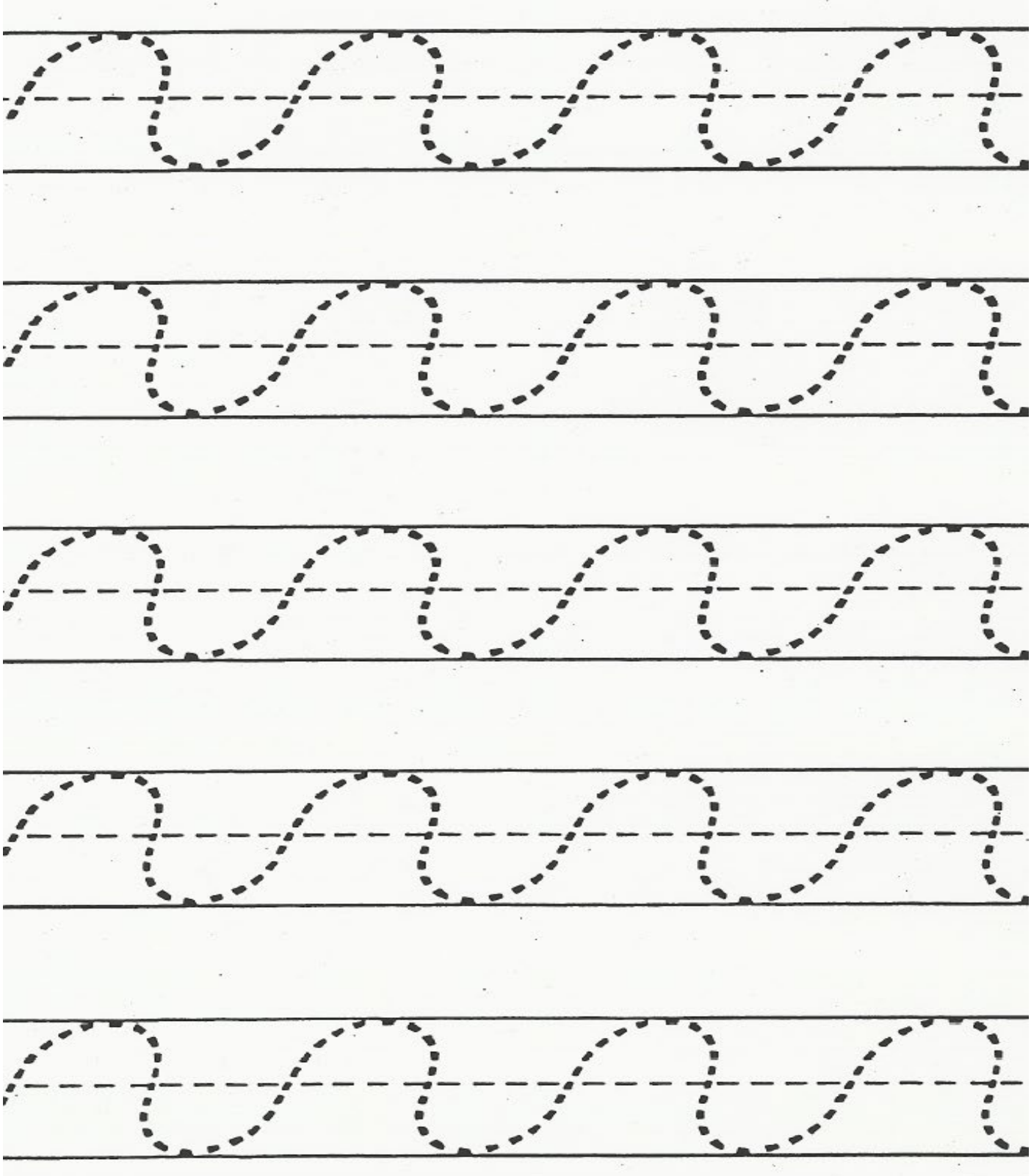
You may want to make several copies of these pages. These pages are for your child to practice tracing and coloring. This will help your child develop his or her small motor skills which are needed to form letters during kindergarten.

Using Scissors - pages 27

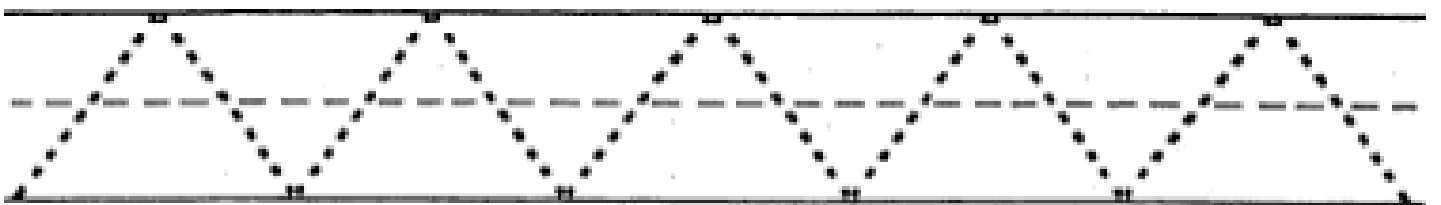
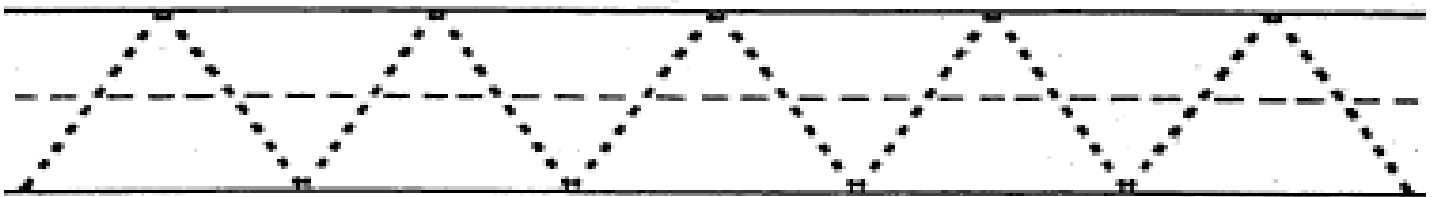
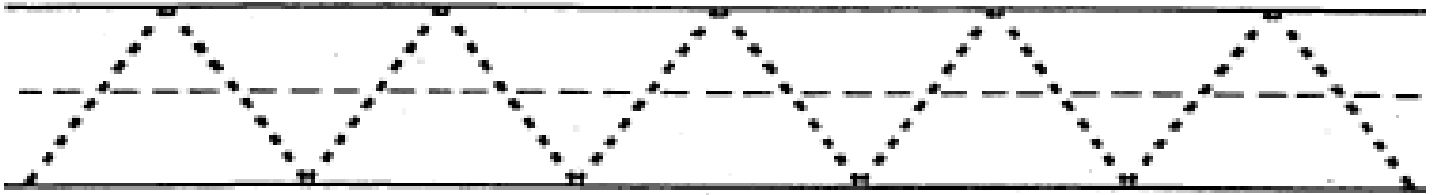
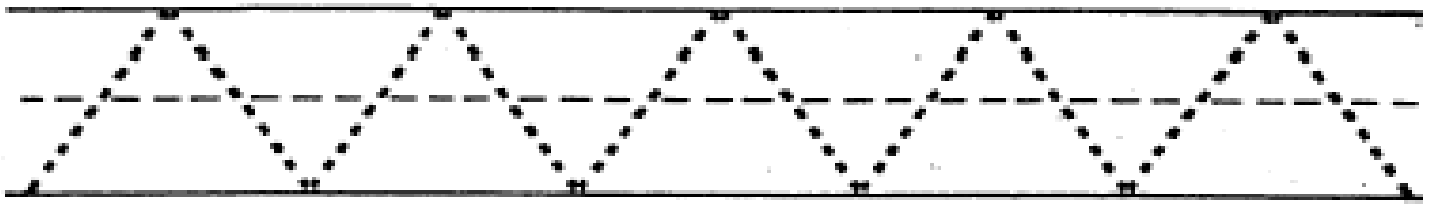
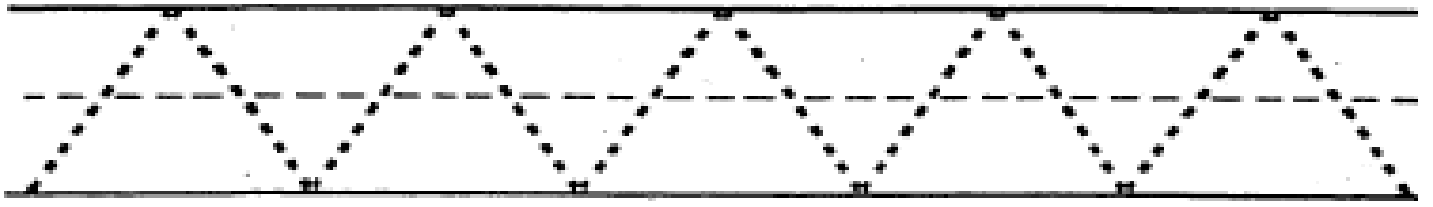
This sheet shows you how to teach your child to use scissors. It also gives directions on how to help your child practice cutting.



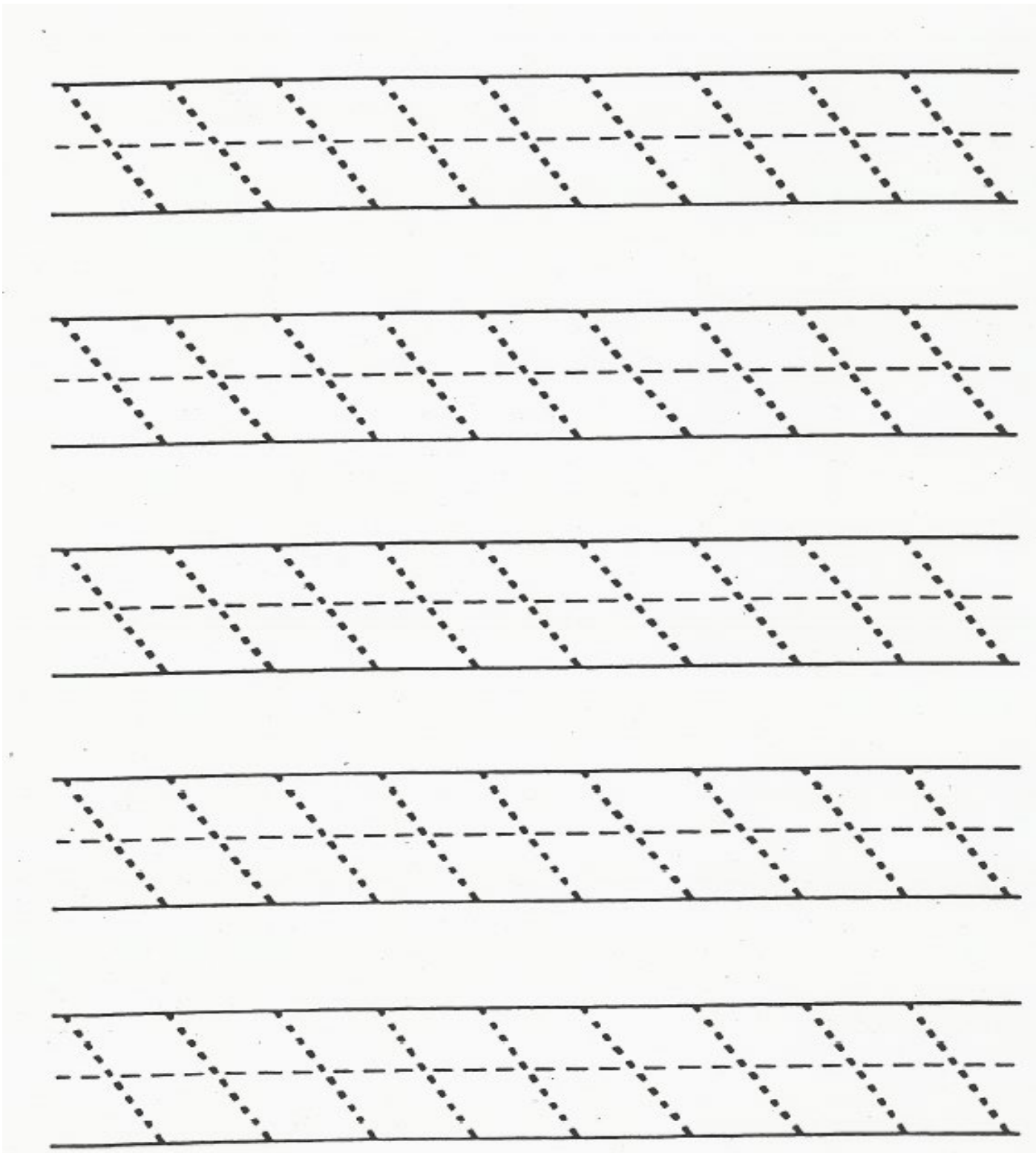
Tracing the Lines



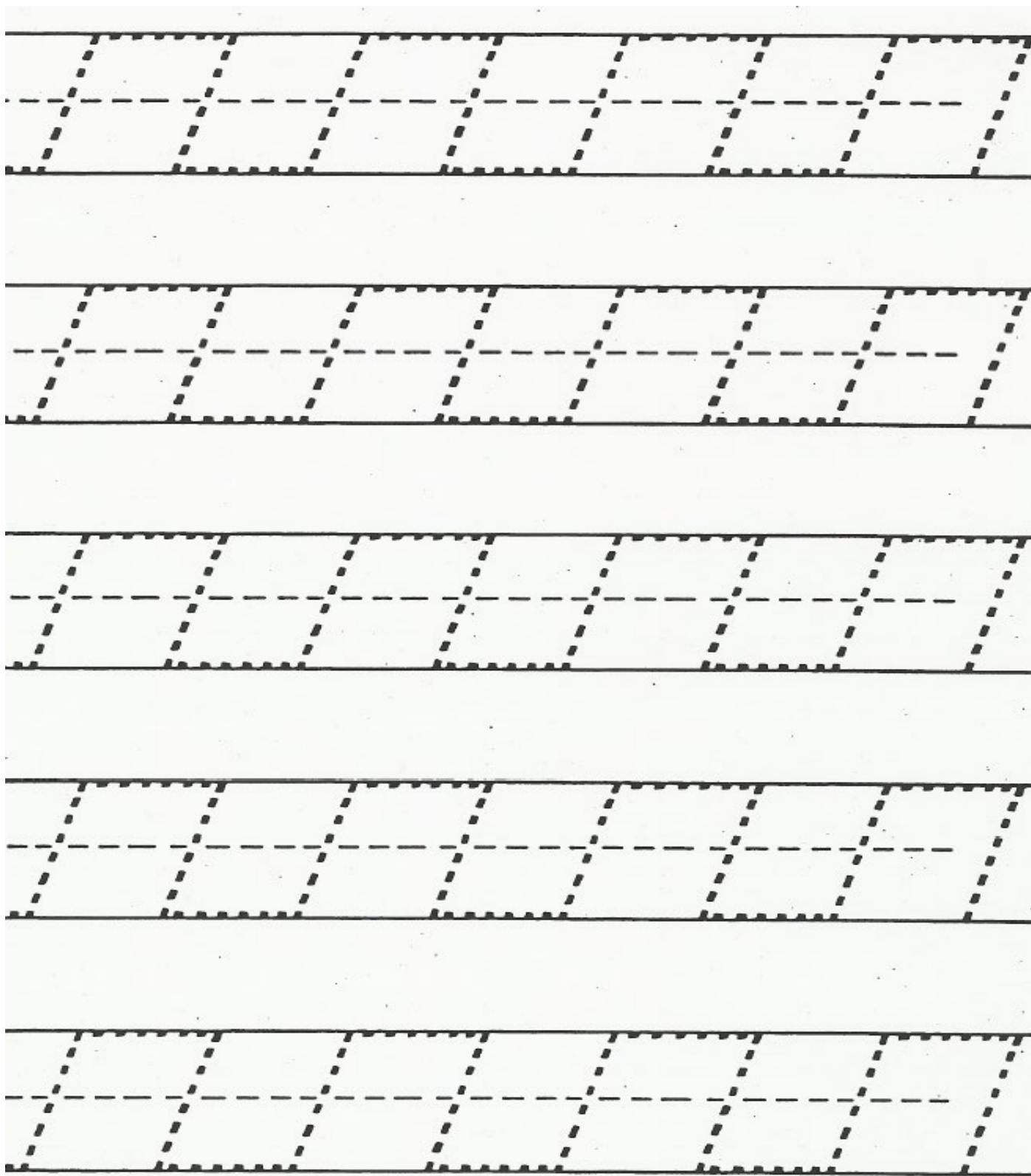
Tracing the Lines



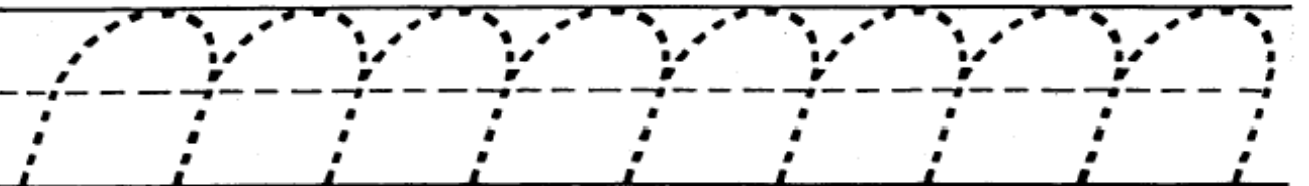
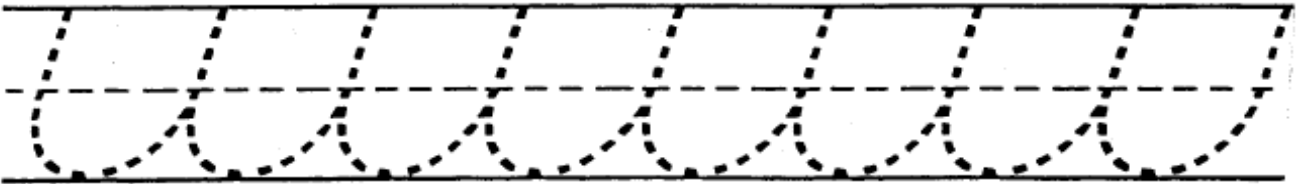
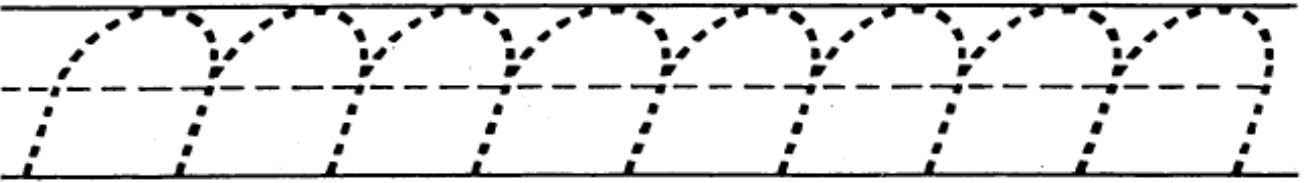
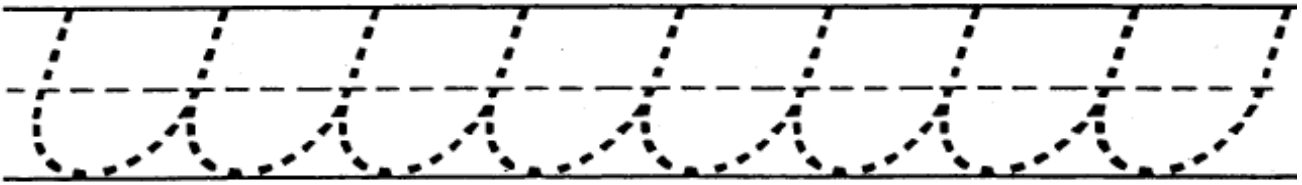
Tracing the Lines



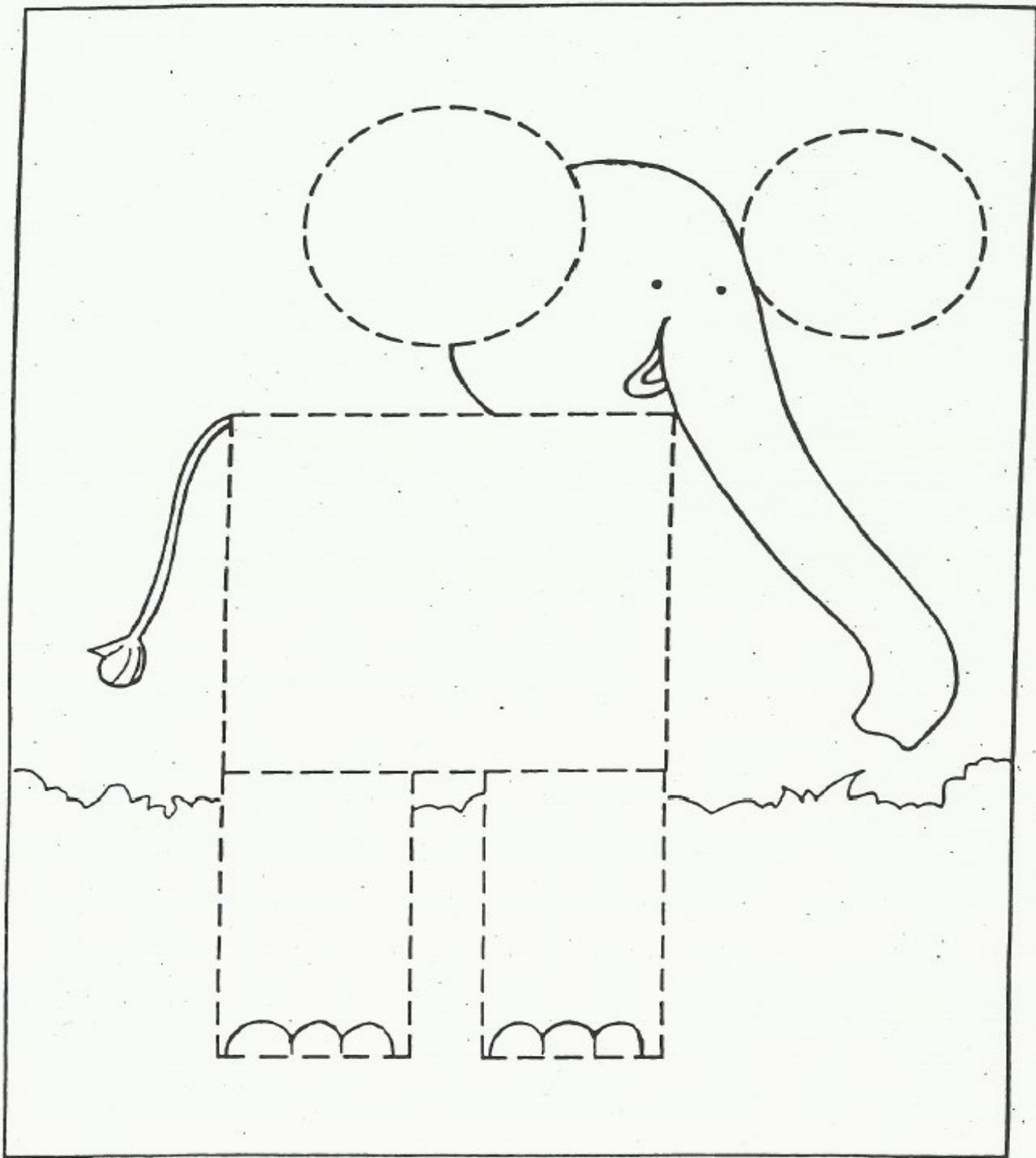
Tracing the Lines



Tracing the Lines



Tracing the Lines



Using Scissors

Using child-sized scissors can be a complicated process to a young child. Your child must be able to:

- Put his or her thumb in the smaller scissor hole and two or three fingers in the larger scissor hole.
- Have his or her thumb on top and fingers down.
- Cut away from his or her body
- Hold the paper with his or her other hand for stability and movement.

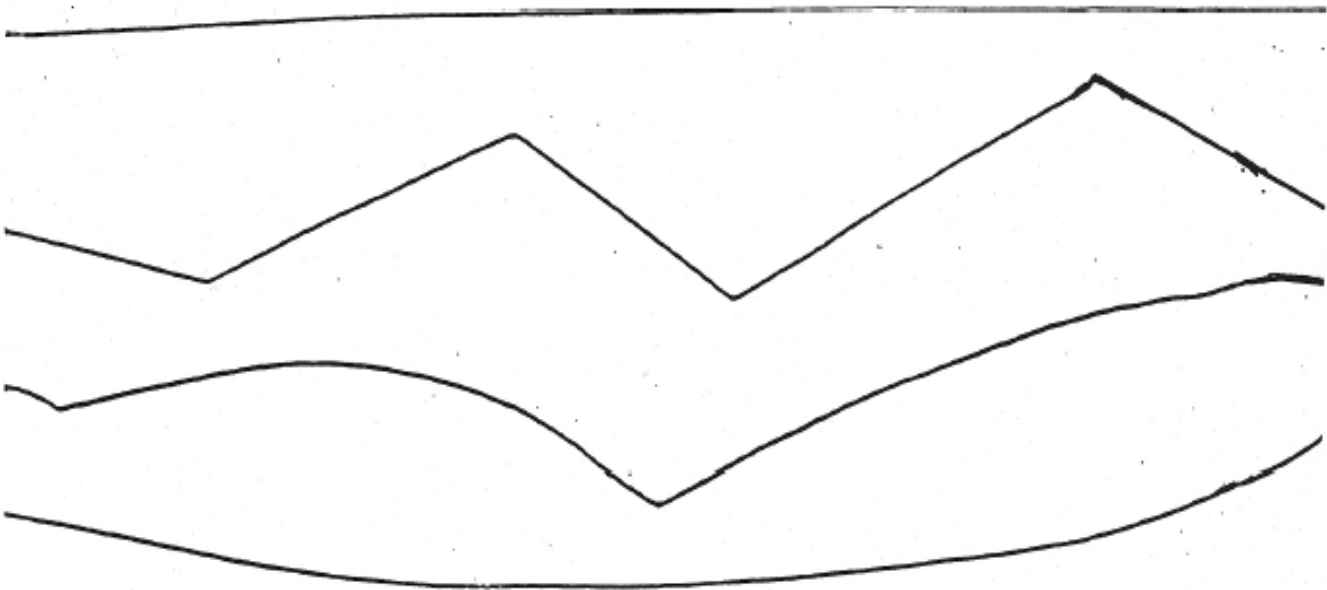
Remember to say encouraging remarks to your child:

- "Thumb up."
- "Cut away from you."
- "Use your helping hand."

Directions:

- Draw simple lines on paper.
- Have your child cut on the lines.
- Use child-size scissors.

Examples are shown below:



SECTION 3

Numbers, Colors, and Shapes



Counting Dot Cards

These cards will help your child practice counting. At the beginning you might want to keep them in order so you may not want to cut these cards right away. After your child seems to know how to count, you may cut them apart and mix them up. Have your child count each dot in each of the boxes. After he or she counts the dots on the card you say, "That's right, there are 7 dots". (or however many he or she just counted). See if he or she can put the dots in order from 1 dot to 10 dots." Remember to help your child whenever needed. After your child has learned how to count, the next step is to recognize numbers.

Number Picture Cards

These cards are for you to cut apart and use in a variety of ways. Listed below are some ideas:

1. Have your child identify the pictures on the cards and count the objects.
2. Mix the cards up (perhaps just working on the numbers 1-5 until your child has mastered those). Help your child put the cards in sequential order (1,2,3,4,5...)
3. Mix the cards up and showing one card at a time, have your child tell you the number. If he or she has difficulty remembering the number, have him or her count the objects.

Number Poems

Cut out each square and make a number book. Read the poem to your child as he or she traces over each number correctly.

My Color Chart

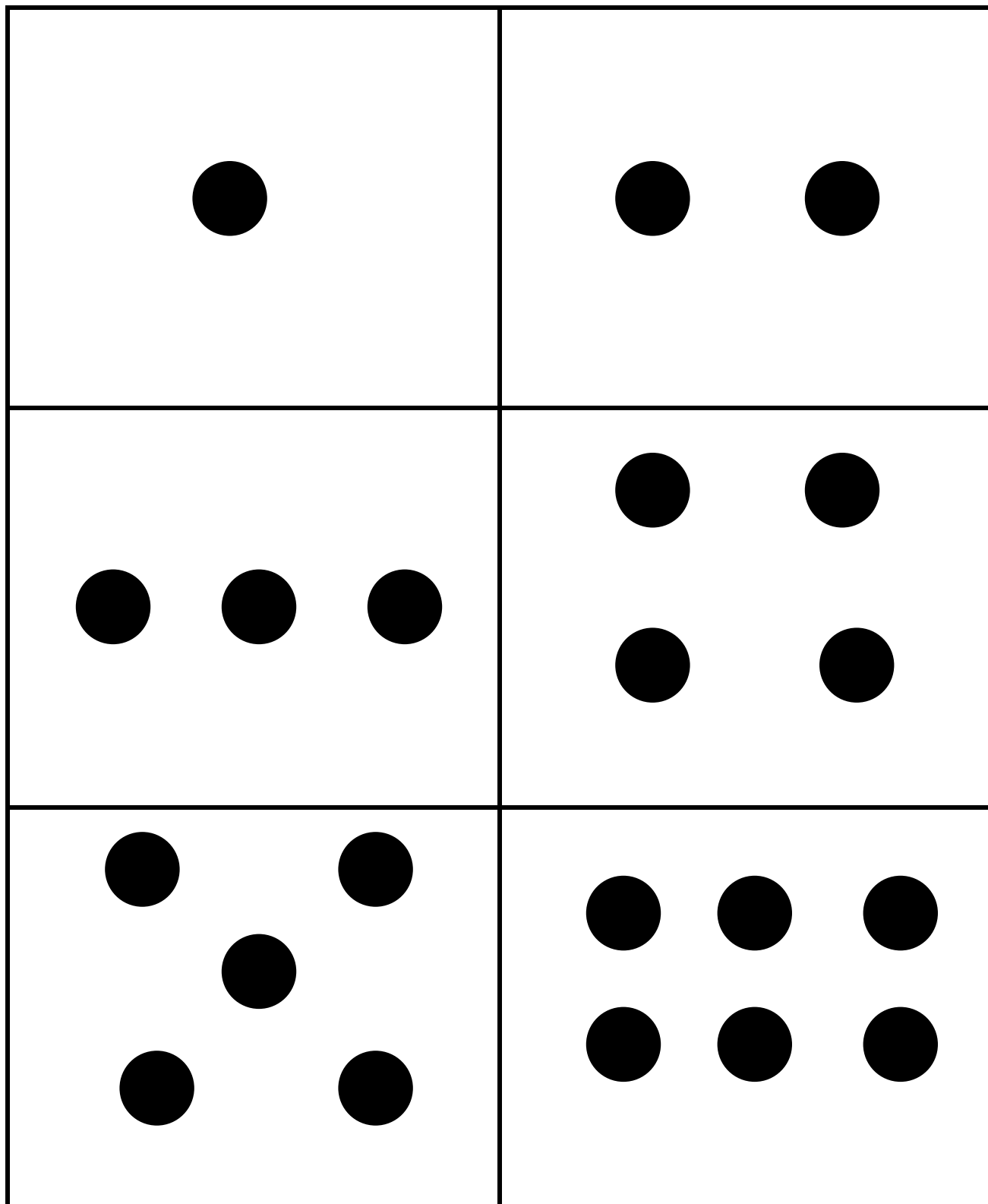
Use this chart to help your child recognize the colors. You can use this chart for many different activities. Some of the activities include:

1. Color the page.
2. Buy your child M&M's (or any small kind of colorful candy) and have him or her sort the candy by colors before he or she eats them. Ask: What color are you going to eat first? What color are you going to eat next? If your child doesn't know the color but points to the one he or she wants to eat, you can tell him or her the color each time he or she eats a candy.
3. Have your child use the chart to see if he or she is wearing clothes that are the same colors on the chart.
4. Serve a dinner made up of foods having the same color. For example, list every green food you can think of and write out a menu. This will help your child remember the colors.

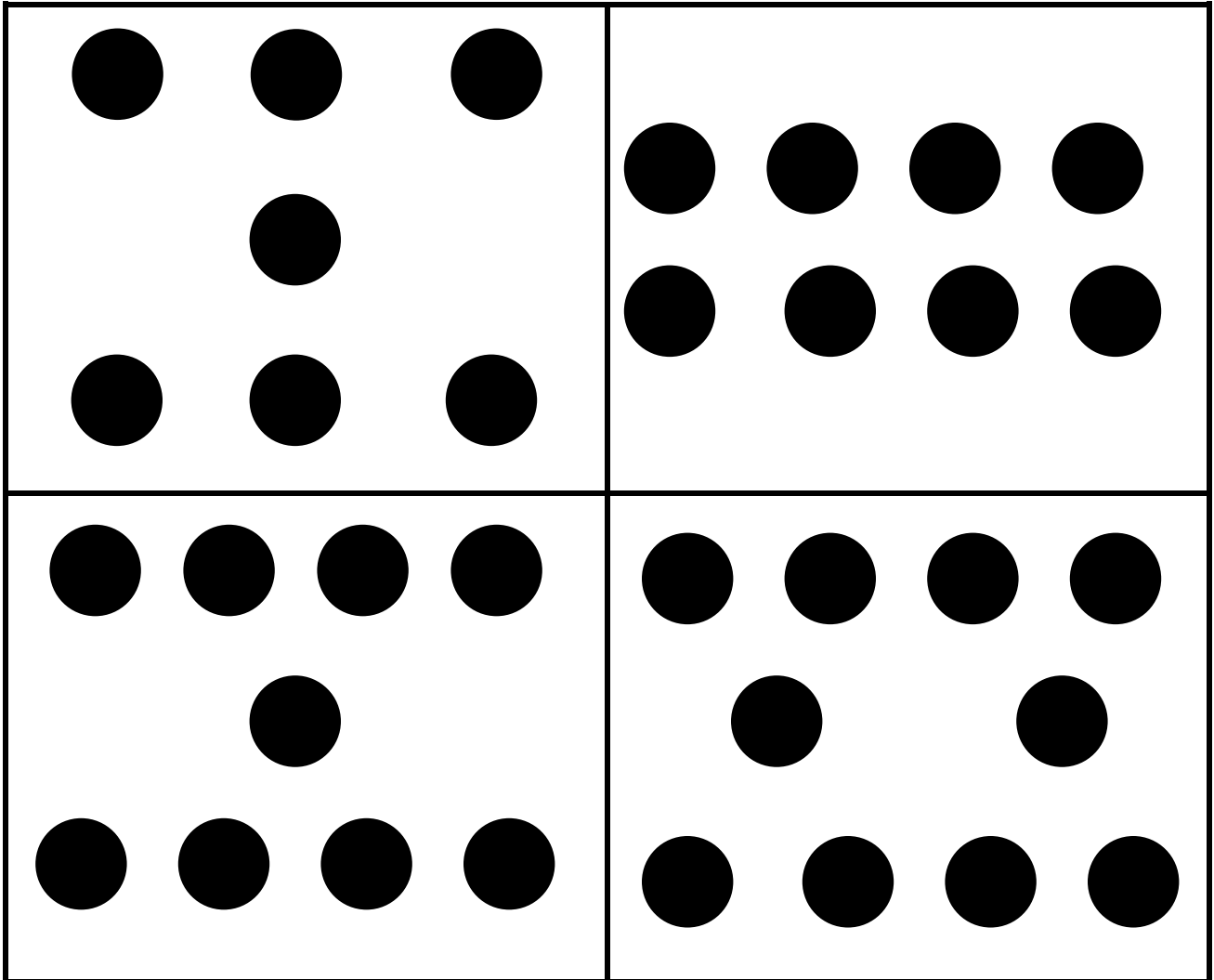
The Four Basic Shapes

Use this chart to help your child begin recognizing the basic shapes. Have your child point to the shapes and color them as he or she says the name of the shape.

Counting Dot Cards



Counting Dot Cards



Number Picture Cards

1



One airplane

2



Two Cars

3



Three dinosaurs

4



Four Elephants

Number Picture Cards

5



Five Gorillas

6



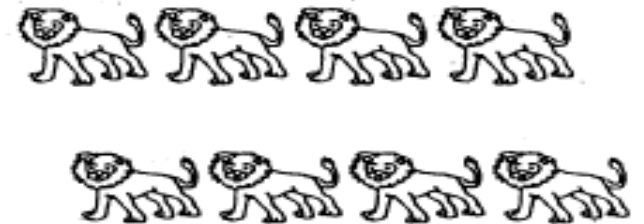
Six Hippos

7



Seven Penguins

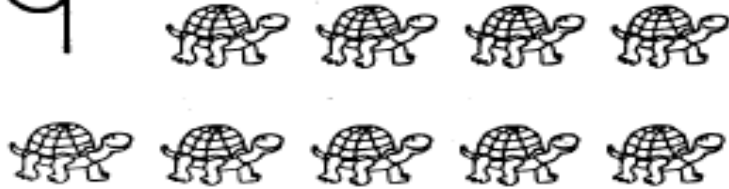
8



Eight Lions

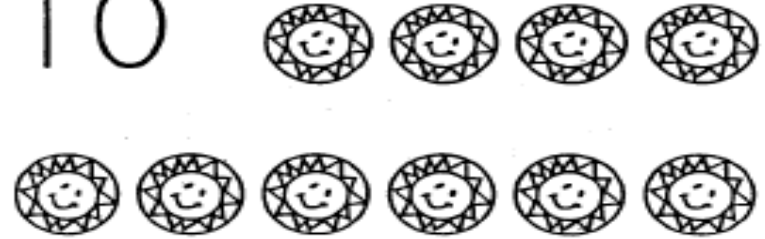
Number Picture Cards

9



Nine Turtles


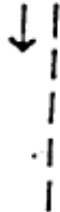


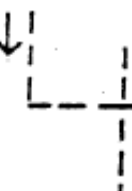
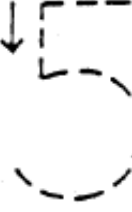

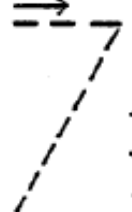


10



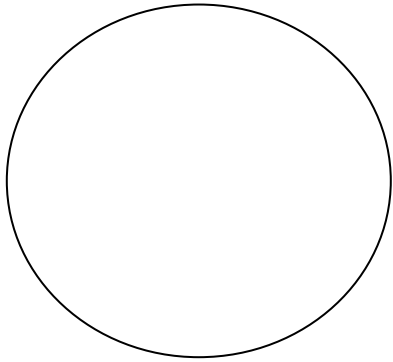
Ten Suns

Number Poems

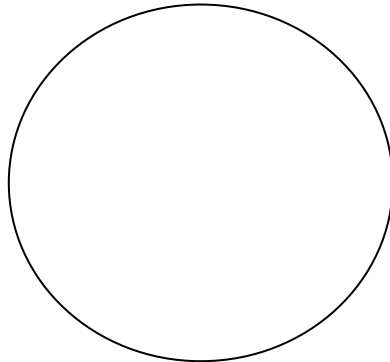
Cut out each of the squares below. Put them together to make a number book. Trace over the numbers with their finger and learn the poem for each one. Practice writing your numbers with the poems.

<p>My Number Book by _____</p>	 <p>Around we go!</p>	 <p>One is fun!</p>
 <p>Around and back on a railroad track!</p>	 <p>Around a tree and around a tree, that's the way to make a three.</p>	 <p>Down and over and down some more, that's the way to make a four.</p>
 <p>Fat old five goes down, around. Put a hat on top.</p>	 <p>Roll a hoop and make a loop.</p>	 <p>Across the sky and down from heaven, that's the way to make a seven.</p>
 <p>We make an "S" but do not wait, go back up and close the gate.</p>	 <p>A hoop and a line, that makes a nine.</p>	<p>The End</p>

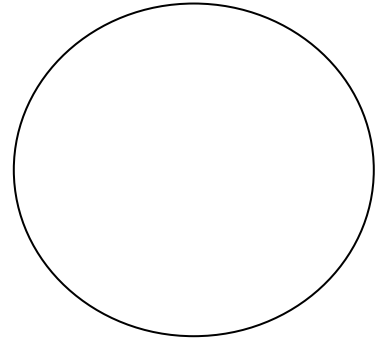
My Color Chart



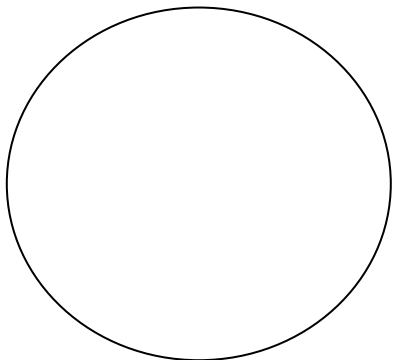
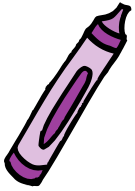
orange



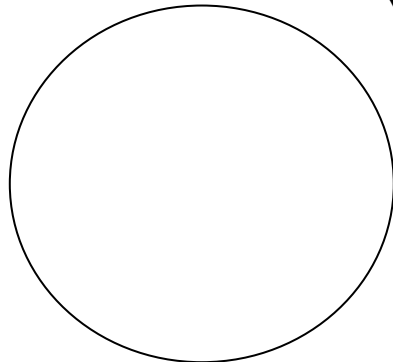
red



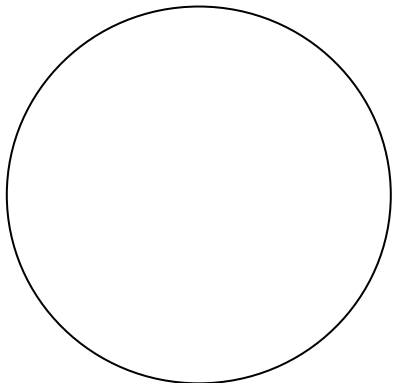
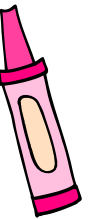
yellow



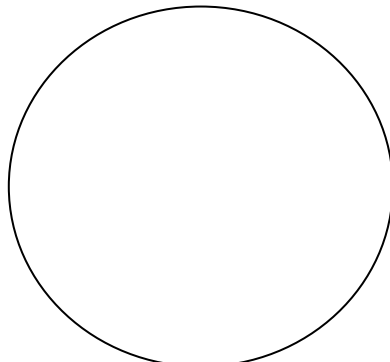
green



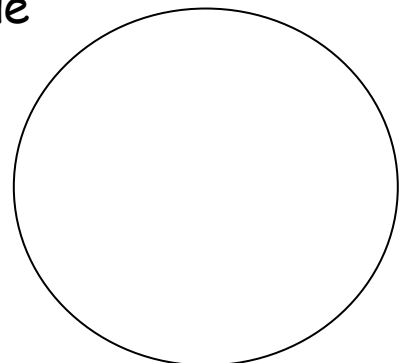
blue



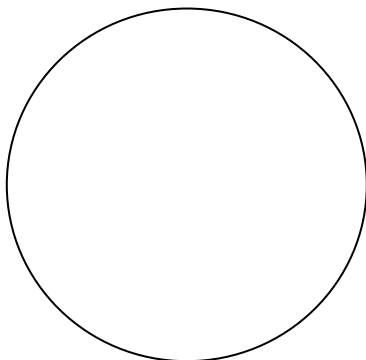
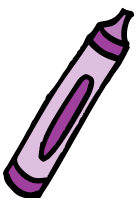
purple



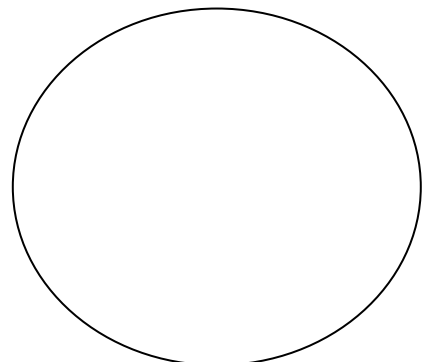
brown



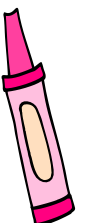
black



white



pink



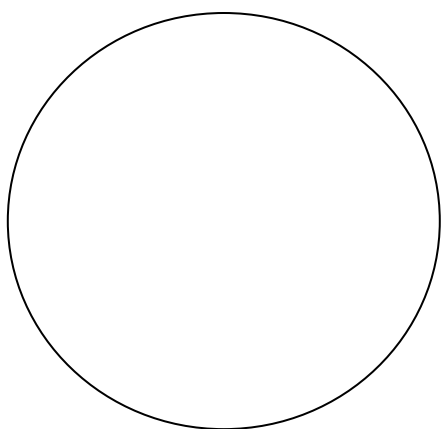
The Four Basic Shapes

Point to the circle

Point to the square

Point to the rectangle

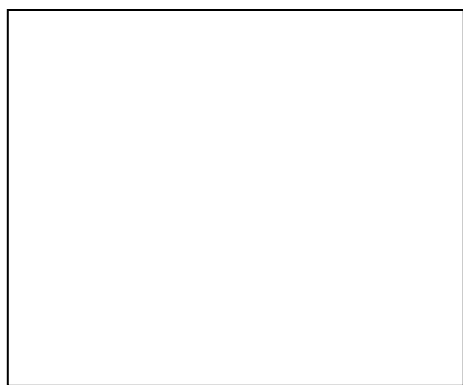
Point to the triangle



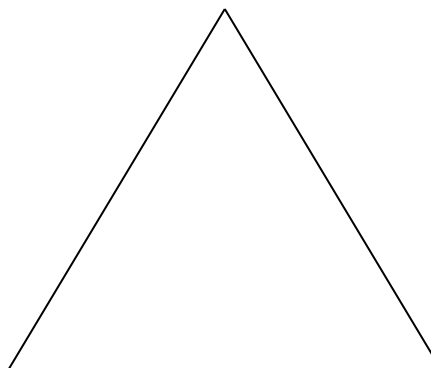
Circle



Rectangle



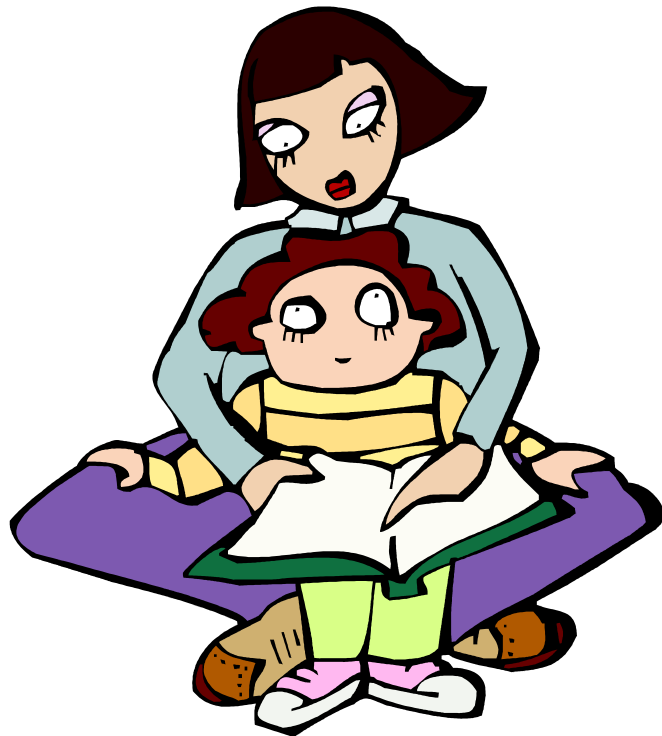
Square



Triangle

SECTION 4

Reading Together and Picking Good Books



Reading Together

- Read a good book to your child and stop at an exciting part. Ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" This will help your child think of possibilities and use his or her imagination.
- When you read with your child, model the way we read. Use your finger to show we start at the top and always read each word from left to the right.
- Before you begin reading a book have your child look at the pictures and have him or her tell you what he or she thinks the book is going to be about. This helps your child understand that the pictures go with the story.
- If you have a book that repeats the same thing many times and your child is already familiar with the book, next time you read it have your child say the part that repeats. This helps your child with memorization and patterns.
- Take your child to the library. There are often many summer programs that you may enjoy participating in with your child. Allow your child to choose and check out his or her own book. This teaches him or her decision making and responsibility. A picture ID is all that is needed to get a library card.
- When you go out, point out letters on billboards or traffic signs to your child. This will help him or her understand the importance of learning the letters. He or she will see that we use letters every day in real-life.

Picking Good Books

The list on the following pages will help you select appropriate books for your child. You do not need to buy them, you can if you choose to, but most libraries will carry these books.



Public Library Eight Town Square Murrieta, CA 92562 951.304.BOOK

LIBRARY CARD APPLICATION (please print clearly) Date: _____

Last Name First Name MI Date of Birth / /

Home Address Apt. #

City State Zip Phone Number ()

E-mail address(es) _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different than above)

Address Apt. # City State Zip

IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Driver's License	California I.D. Card	Other Picture I.D.

I agree to be responsible for all materials charged on my library card; to report a lost library card; to observe the library rules and policies; to pay promptly all charges; and to notify the library of an address or name change.

Signature of Applicant

FOR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF MINOR APPLICANT

I give my child permission to have a library card and assume complete financial responsibility for all library materials borrowed by my child. I understand that children's and adult collections are accessible to children and that children will have access to the library's electronic resources.

Last Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

First Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

For Staff Use Only: Barcode _____	Quick Reg _____	Full Reg _____
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Forms and Templates\Word docs\Library card application10-07.doc

Books to Prepare Children for Transition to Begin School

Title

Miss Nelson is Missing
Carlos Goes to School
The Berenstain Bears Go to School
Arthur's Teacher Trouble
The Kindergarten Book
Look out Kindergarten, Here I Come!
We Like Kindergarten
When Will I Read
Will I have a Friend?
What's Good For a Five-Year Old
First Day Jitters
I Started School Today
My Teacher's My Friend
Sheila Rae, the Brave
Off to School, Baby Duck!
When You Go To Kindergarten
I Thought I'd Take My Rat to School
Going to Kindergarten
Song Lee and the Hamster Hunt
Leo, The Late Bloomer
Bear Goes to Kindergarten
Froggy Goes to School
Who's Going to Take Care of Me?
Countdown to Kindergarten
We Share Everything
If You Take a Mouse to School
The Kissing Hand
First Day, Hooray!
First Day
Tiptoe into Kindergarten
The Twelve Days of Kindergarten
Vera's First Day of School
Annabelle Swift, Kindergartener
Miss Bindergarten Gets
Ready for Kindergarten
Ira Says Goodbye
My Teacher Sleeps in School
The Night Before Kindergarten
Adam Smith Goes to School

Author

Allard, Harry G.
Anderson, Eloise A
Berenstein, Stan & Jan
Brown, Marc Tolon
Calmenson
Carlson, Nancy
Cassidy
Cohen
Cohen, Miriam
Cole
Danneberg, Julie
Frandsen, Karen G
Hallinan, P. K.
Henkes, Kevin
Hest, Amy
Howe, James
Hutchins, Pat
Jones
Kline, Suzy
Kraus
Langreuter, Jutta
London, Jonathan
Magorian, Michelle
McGhee, Alison
Munsch, Robert
Numeroff, Laura Joffe
Penn, Audrey
Poydar, Nancy
Rankin, Joan
Rogers, Jacqueline
Rose, Deborah Lee
Rosenberry, Vera
Schwartz, Amy
Slate, Joseph

Waber, Bernard
Weiss, Leatie
Wing, Julie
Wolf, Bernard

Good Books To Read with Your Child

Title

Ugly Duckling
Two Bad Ants
Happy Birthday, Moon
Deeps Dives of Stanley Whale
The Elves and the Shoemaker
Annie and the Wild Animals
Stone Soup
Goodnight Moon
Runaway Bunny
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
River Ran Wild
The Silver Crow
May I Bring a Friend?
Dragon Feathers
Are You My Mother?
The Baker's Dozen
Corduroy
Millions of Cats
The Three Bears
The Christmas Train
The Friendly Wolf
All The Colors of the Earth
The Country Bunny
Bedtime for Frances
Bread and Jam for Frances
Tom Thumb
Rosie's Walk
Little Red Riding Hood
Harold and the Purple Crayon
The Snowy Day
Chicken Little
The Island of the Skog
The Elephant's Child
The Carrot Seed

Author

Adams, A.
Allsburg, C.
Asch, C.
Benchley, N.
Brandt, K.
Brett, J.
Brown, M.
Brown, M.W.
Brown, M.W.
Carle, E.
Cherry, L.
Cooper, S.
De Regniers, B.
Dugina, A. & O.
Eastman, P.D.
Forest, H.
Freeman, D.
Gag, W.
Galdone, P.
Gantschev, I.
Goble, P. & D.
Hamanaka, S.
Heyward, DuBose
Hoban, R.
Hoban, R.
Hoffman, F.
Hutchins, P.
Hyman, T.
Johnson, C.
Keats, E.
Kellogg, S.
Kellogg, S.
Kipling, R.
Krauss, R.

Title

Alexander and the Wind-up Mouse
The Biggest House in the World
Frog and Toad are Friends
The Boy Who Held Back the Sea
Foolish Rabbit's Big Mistake
Blueberries for Sal
Make Way for Ducklings
Little Bear
Anno's Animals
Big Bad Bruce
Baby Earth
Rainbow Fish
I Smell Honey
The Little Engine that Could
Tale of Peter Rabbit
Peter and the Wolf
Mr. And Mrs. Pig's Night Out
Clever Turtle
The Enchanted Forest
Mother Goose
Where the Wild Things Are
Caps For Sale
The Talking Eggs
Bored, Nothing to Do
London Bridge
Sylvester & the Magic Pebble
The Amazing Bone
Child's Garden of Verses
The Polar Express
Mouse Count
The Biggest Bear
Tomato Patch
The Fisherman and His Wife
A New Coat for Anna
Harry the Dirty Dog

Author

Lionni, L.
Lionni, L.
Lobel, A.
Locker, T.
Martin, R.
McCloskey, R.
McCloskey, R.
Minarik, E.
Peet, B.
Peet, B.
Petit, Jean, M.
Pfister, M.
Pinkey, A.
Piper, W.
Potter, B.
Prokofieff, S.
Rayner, M.
Roche, A. K.
Sanderson, R.
Starry, R.
Sendak, M.
Slobodkina, E.
Souci, R.
Spier, P.
Spier, P.
Steig, W.
Steig, W.
Stevenson, R.
Van Allsberg, C.
Walsh, E.
Ward, L.
Wondriska, W.
Zemach, M.
Zieffert, H.
Zion, G.

SECTION 5

Sparking Creativity



The following activities help to develop and “spark” your child's creativity:

- **Asking “What if” Questions**

Play a game with your child where he or she gets to answer “what if” questions. This will help him or her develop his or her creative skills. Sample questions could include: What if you didn't have hands? What if you could fly like a bird? What if animals could talk?

- **Playing with Play Dough**

Make a batch of play dough together. Mix 1 cup flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, a few drops of oil, and enough water to make it easy to handle. After it is ready you can divide it into different parts. Add a drop or two of different food colorings to each batch so that you have different colors of play dough. Roll the play dough into thin strips to make letters and numbers. Mix different colors of play dough to make new colors. Make objects with dough. Roll out the play dough and cut with cookie cutters to make different shapes. Cut the dough with plastic knives & spoons. Have fun and be creative.

- **Draw or Paint**

Have your child draw pictures or paint his or her favorite part of a story or his or her favorite character from a story. Another idea is to have your child draw any picture he or she wants and then tell you a story about his or her picture. Write the words for the story as he or she is telling you the story.

- **Pick One a Week!**

Cut up the cards on the following pages and put them in a box or can. Have your child pick one card each week. Read the card out loud to your child and do the activity written on the card with your child.

When working with your child, please keep this thought in mind:

***I hear, and I forget
I see, and I remember
I do, and I understand***

Chinese Proverb

Pick One A Week

Read me a story.
Tell me the author and
illustrator.

Play a game with me.

Let's take a walk and look for
things bigger than me and
things smaller than me.

Sing a song with me.

Work a puzzle with me.

Let me cook something
special to eat.

Tell me what you were like
when you were little.
What was your favorite book?

Ask me to find different shapes,
like circles, squares, triangles
and rectangles.

Help me write a letter
to someone.

Paint a picture with me.

Ask me to name
words that rhyme.

Let me help you do a job
around the house.

Help me count the number
of doors in our house.
What else can we count?

Teach me how to zip,
button, snap, and tie.

Tell me about your job.

Let's say some
nursery rhymes together.

Ask me about my favorite
animal, book, or activity.

Sing a nursery rhyme with me.

Act out opposites, like
"up and down," "hot and cold,"
"big and little," etc.

Read me a book and leave out
some words. Let me guess
what they are.