

June 2026

Dear Incoming Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten at St. Isidore School! I am so happy that you are here! Kindergarten is such a fun and exciting time, and I can't wait to travel through the year with you and your child!

In this folder you will find your child's summer work along with an informative packet to help prepare you and your child for a wonderful year full of fun and learning! The Summer Work packet focuses on fine motor control. The activities I am asking your child to complete may seem silly, but they are helping to strengthen the tiny muscles in their little fingers! Please use a pencil to complete the activities, unless the directions state otherwise. I also want to learn more about your child, so there is a backpack in the folder along with "buttons" to color and attach. They will be sharing these with the class in September. I also included a fun Summer Reading Challenge. Please make sure you are reading to your child, or he/she is "reading" to themselves on a daily basis!

Enjoy the Summer with your child. I look forward to seeing you all for the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

[Lomara@stisidoreschool.com](mailto:Lomara@stisidoreschool.com)

Have a fun and relaxing Summer!

Mrs. Lisa O'Mara

## Summer Reading Challenge

Read a book with blue (like the summer sky) on the cover.

Title:

Read a book barefoot.

Title:

Read a book with a dog or cat in it.

Title:

Read a book in the shade.

Title:

Read a non-fiction (true) book.

Title:

Read a book to a real animal or stuffed animal.

Title:

Read a book about friends.

Title:

Read a book in your pajamas.

Title:

Read a book with yellow (like the sun) on the cover.

Title:

Free choice. Read any book you want.

Title:

Write each book title in only one box. An adult or an older kid can help you read the books. When school starts, bring this to your teacher or librarian for a prize!

**Summer**

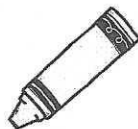
**Work**

# I CAN WRITE MY NAME!

I can write my name with a pencil.



I can write my name with a crayon.



I can write my name with a colored pencil.



I can write my name with a marker.



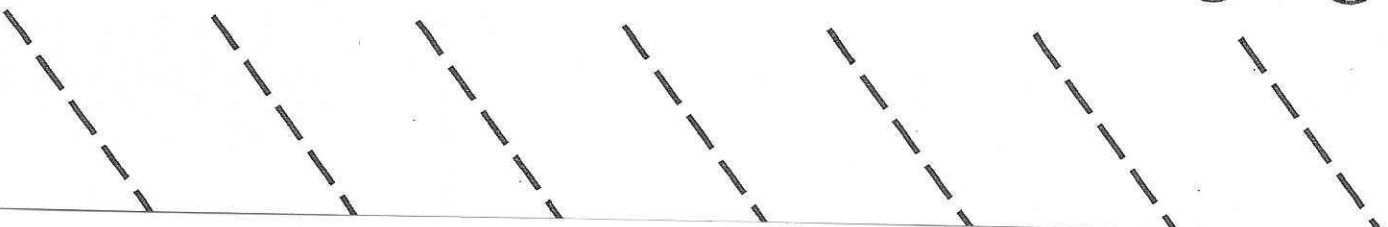
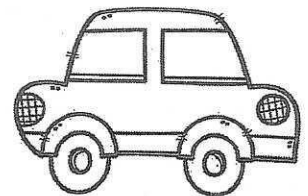
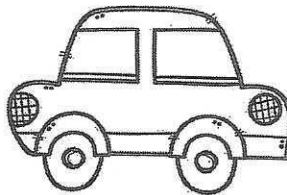
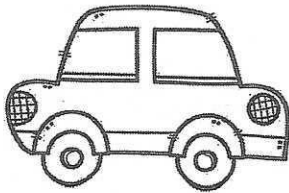
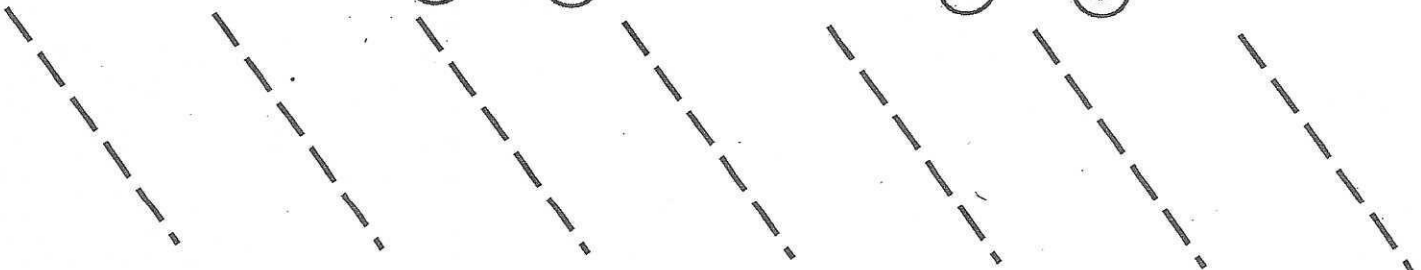
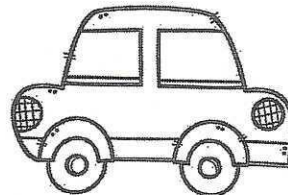
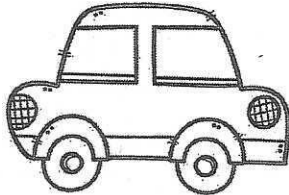
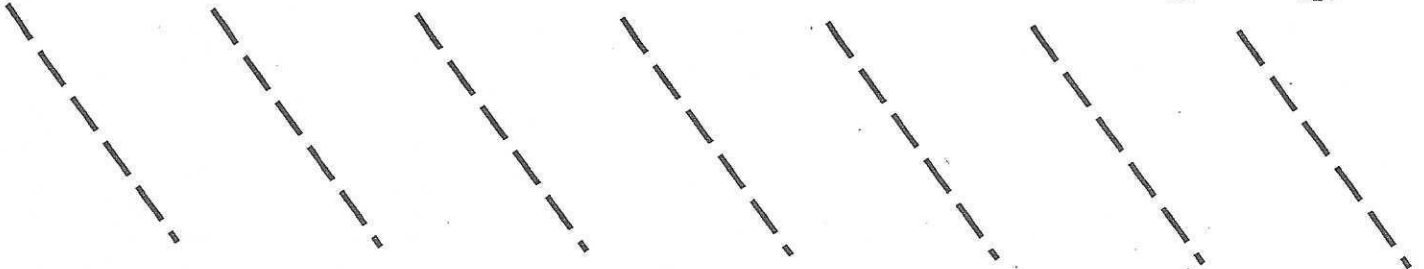
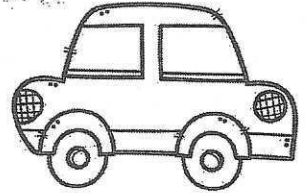
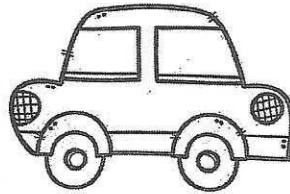
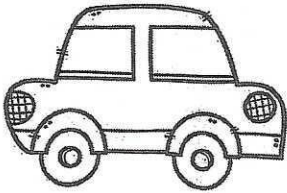
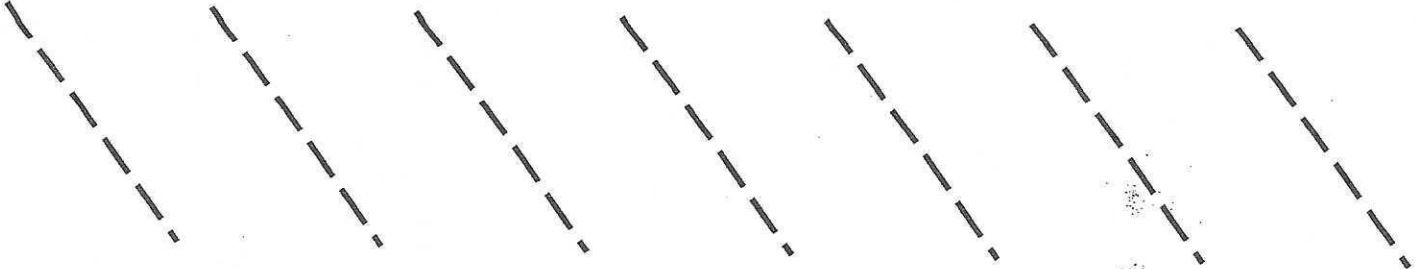
I can write my name in different colors.



name \_\_\_\_\_

# PARK THE CAR

Trace the lines from top to bottom so the cars can park.

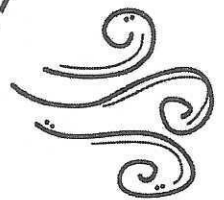
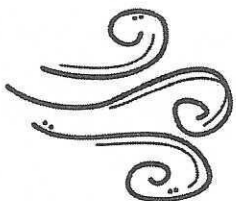
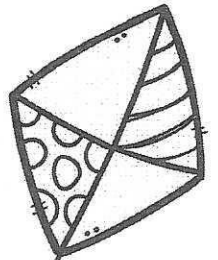
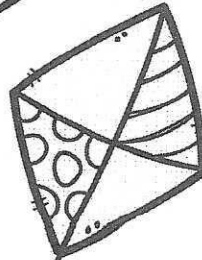
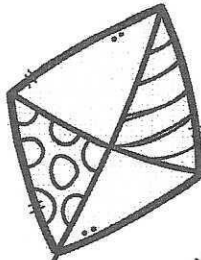
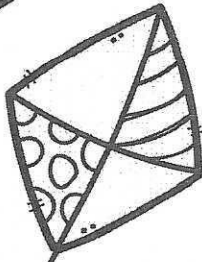
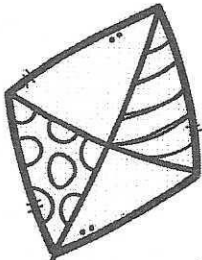
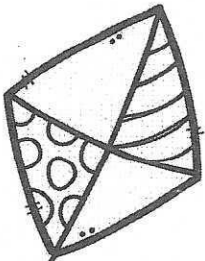
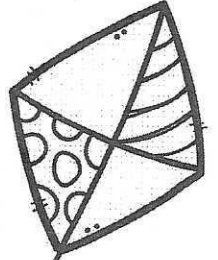
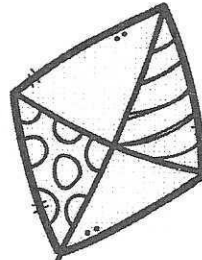
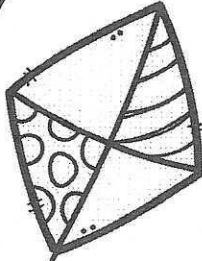
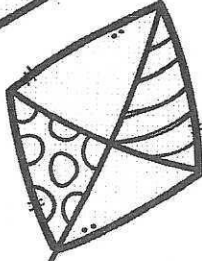
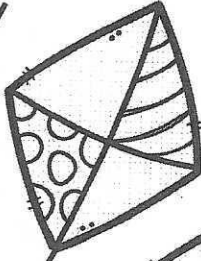
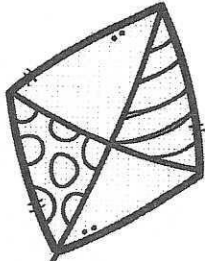
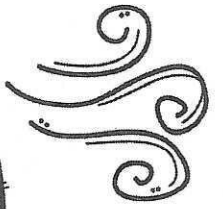
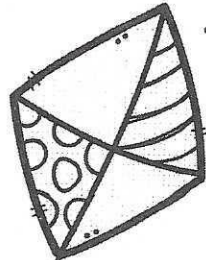
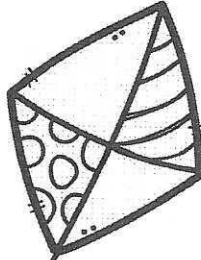
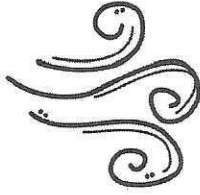
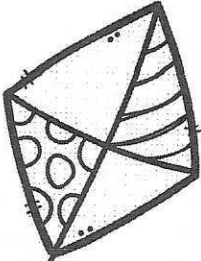
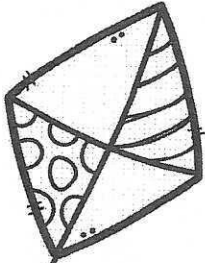


name \_\_\_\_\_

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# LET'S GO FLY A KITE

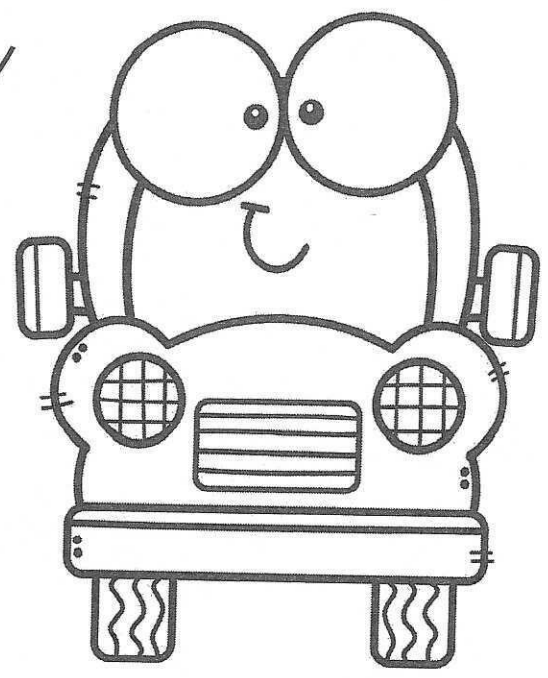
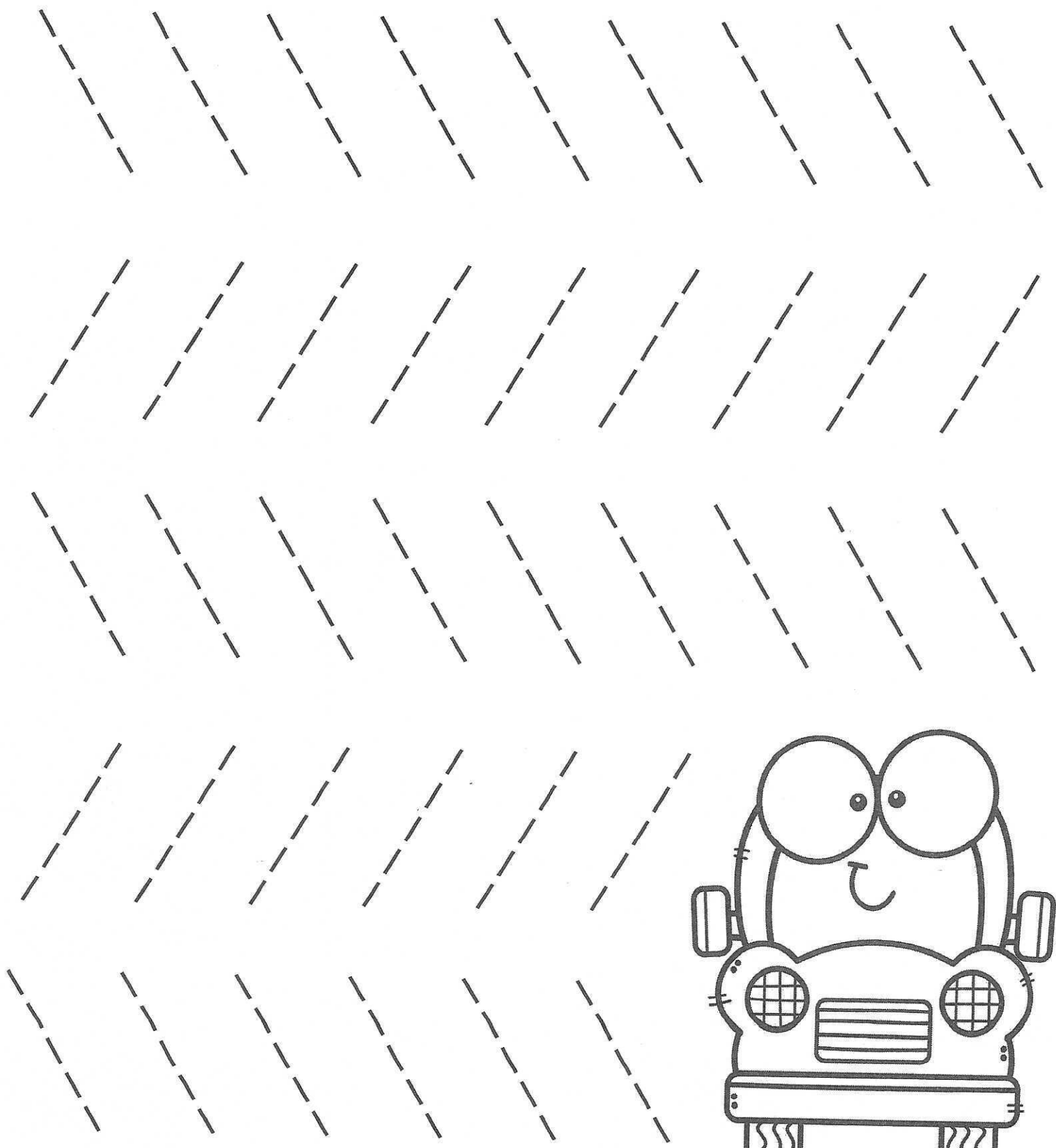
Trace the lines from top to bottom.



name \_\_\_\_\_

# THE BIG PARKING LOT

Trace the lines from top to bottom so the car can park.

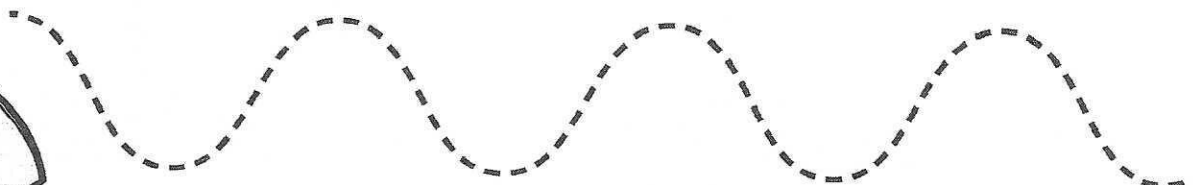
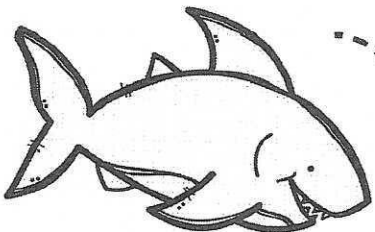
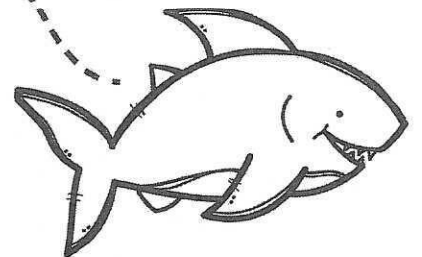
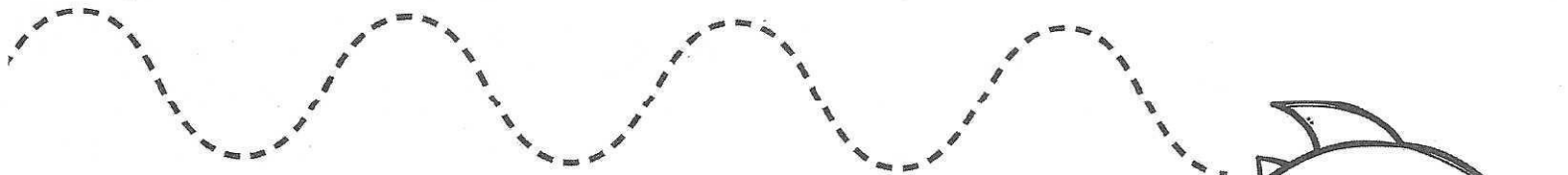
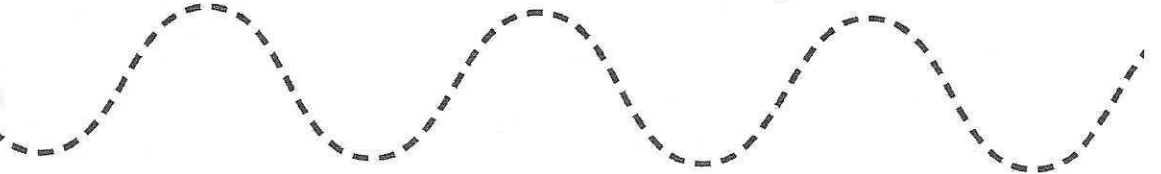
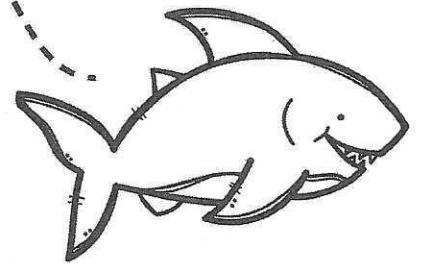
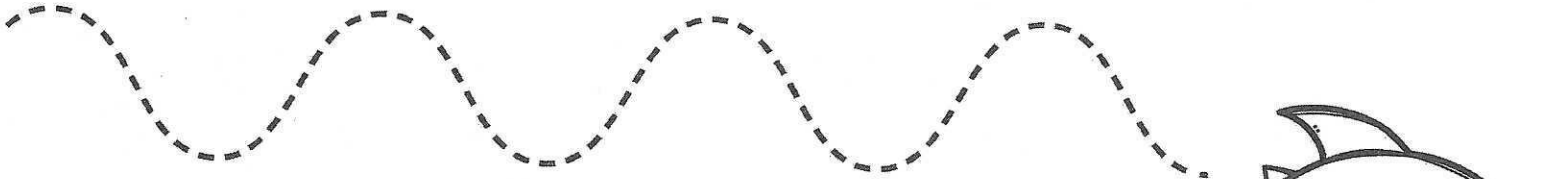
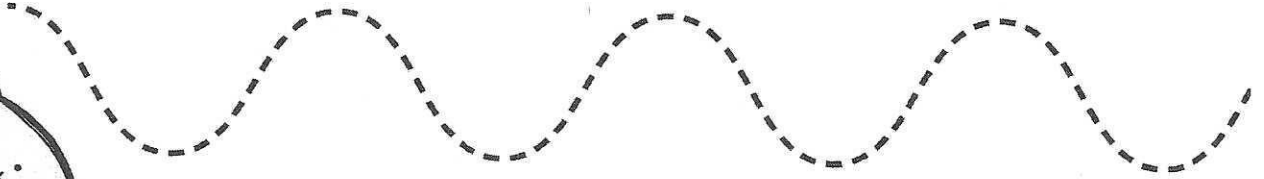
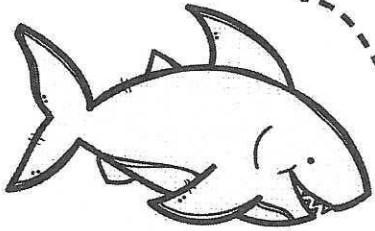


name \_\_\_\_\_

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# SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

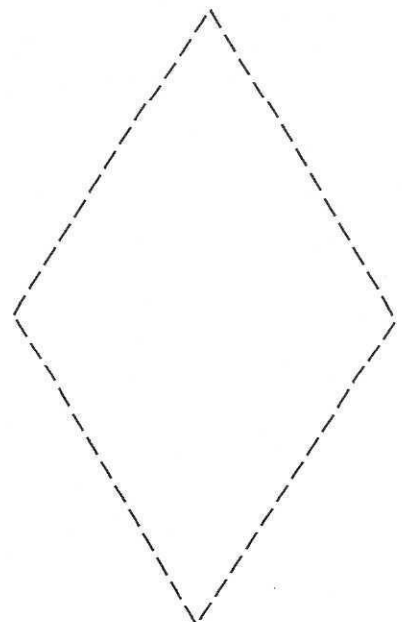
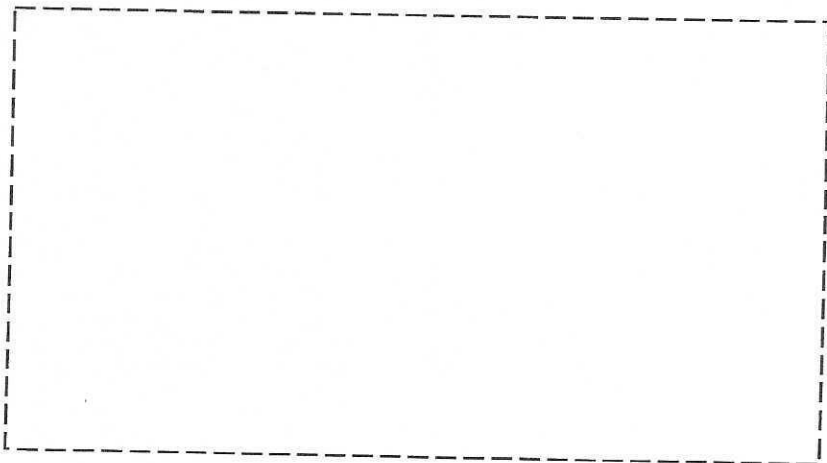
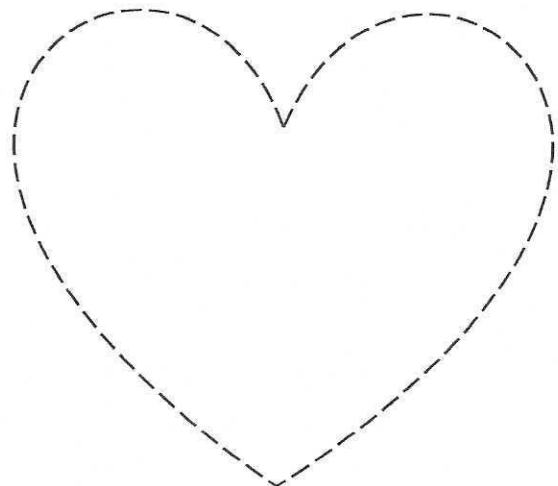
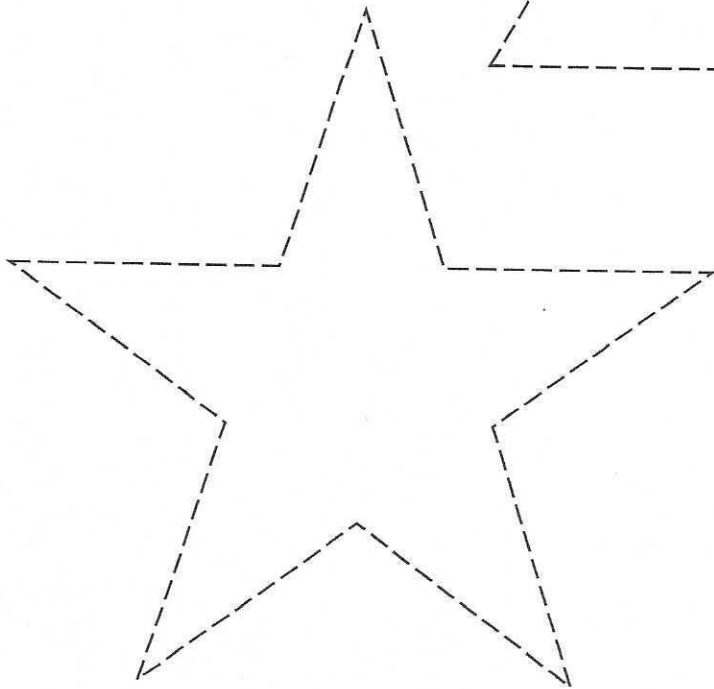
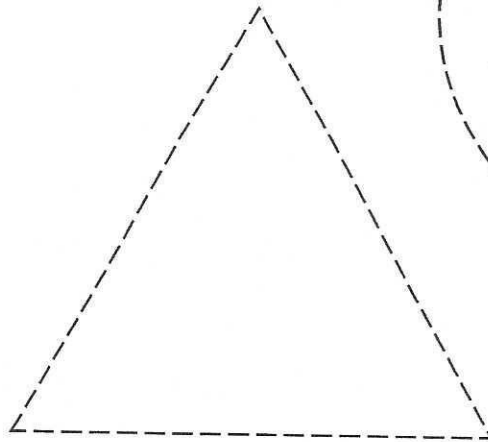
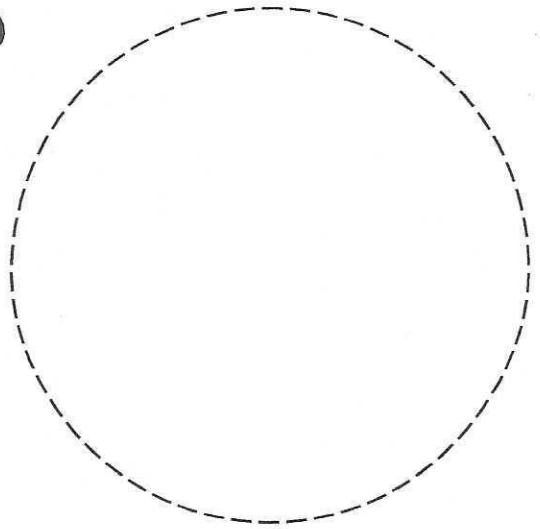
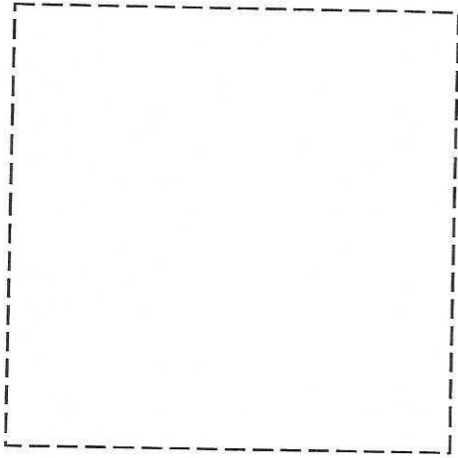
Trace the lines from left to right.



name \_\_\_\_\_

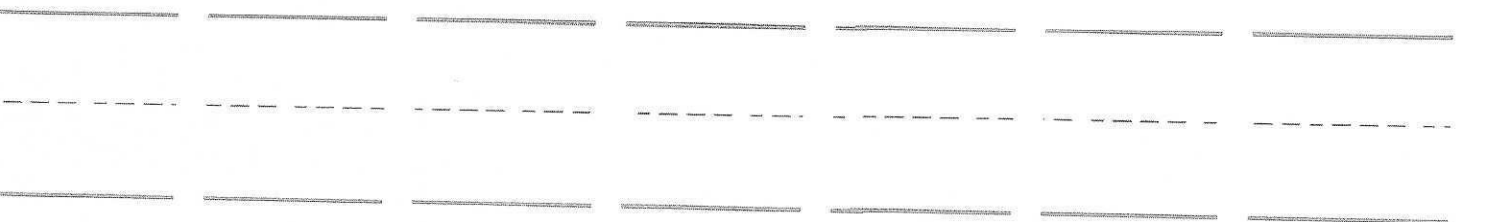
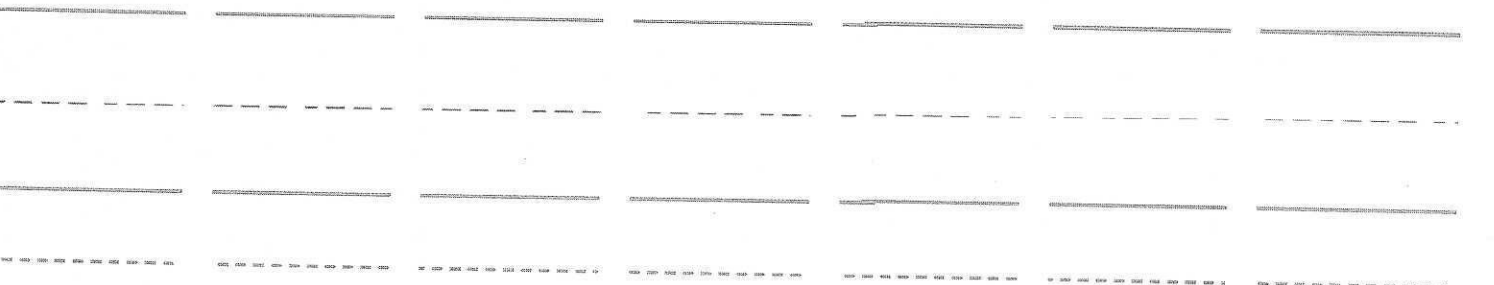
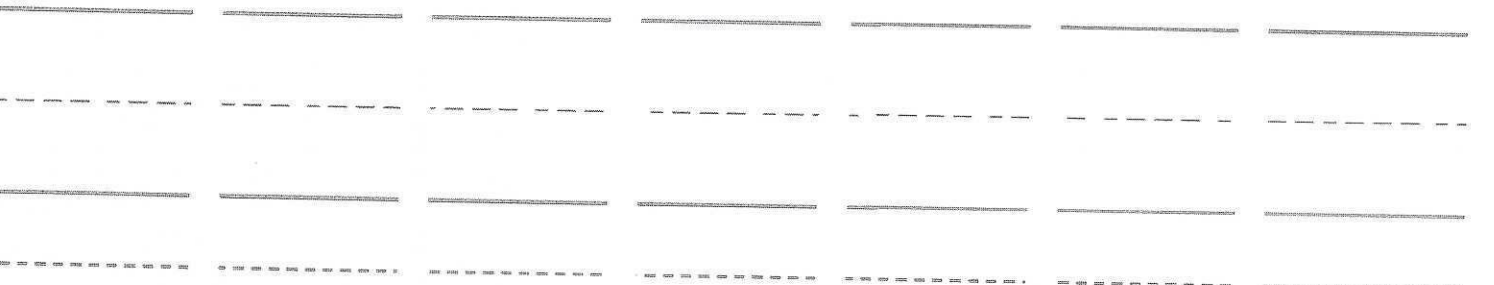
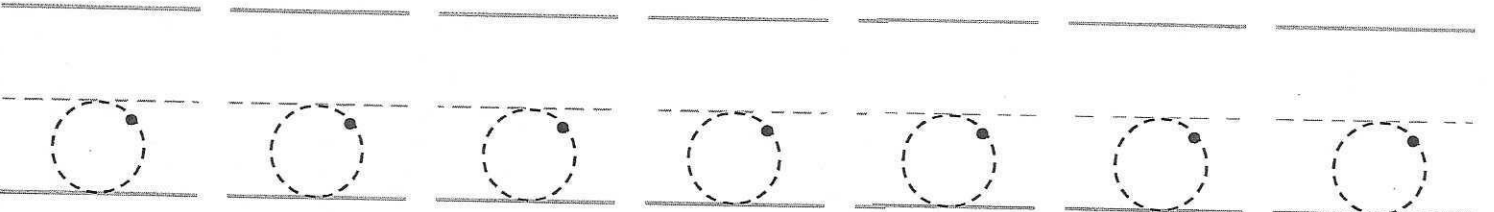
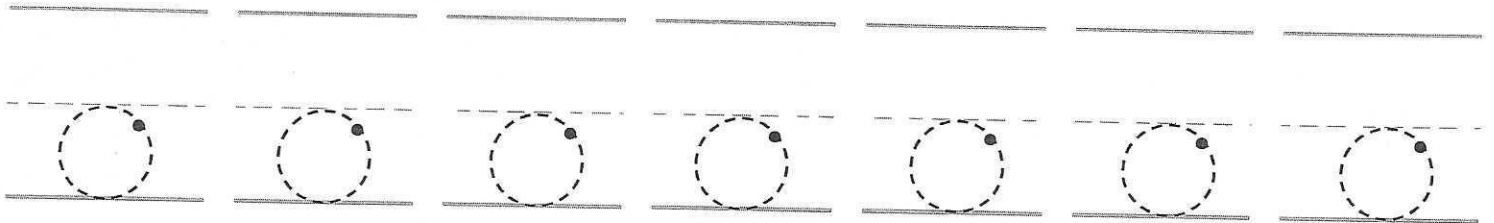
# SHAPES

Trace the shapes.



name \_\_\_\_\_

# PREWRITING STROKES



name \_\_\_\_\_

# TRACE THE PICTURE

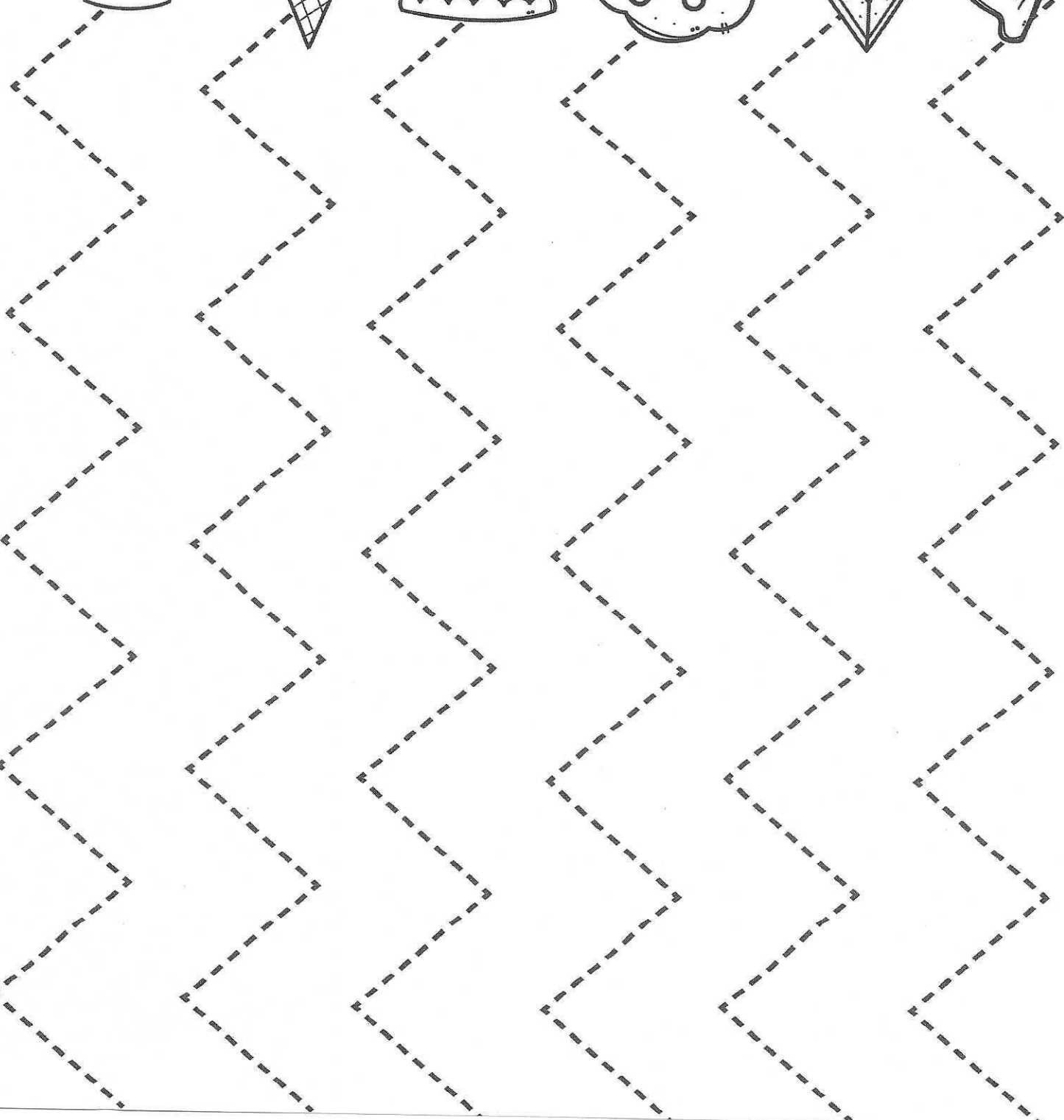
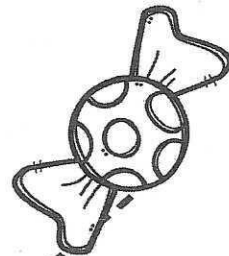
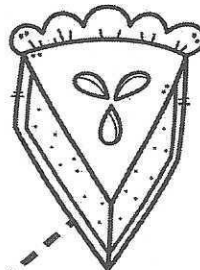
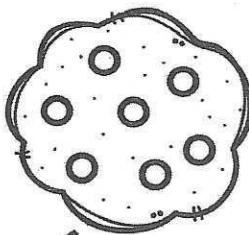
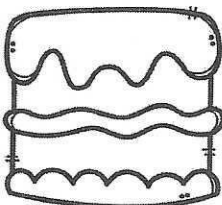
Trace the objects in the picture.



name \_\_\_\_\_

# Cut To The Sweet Treat

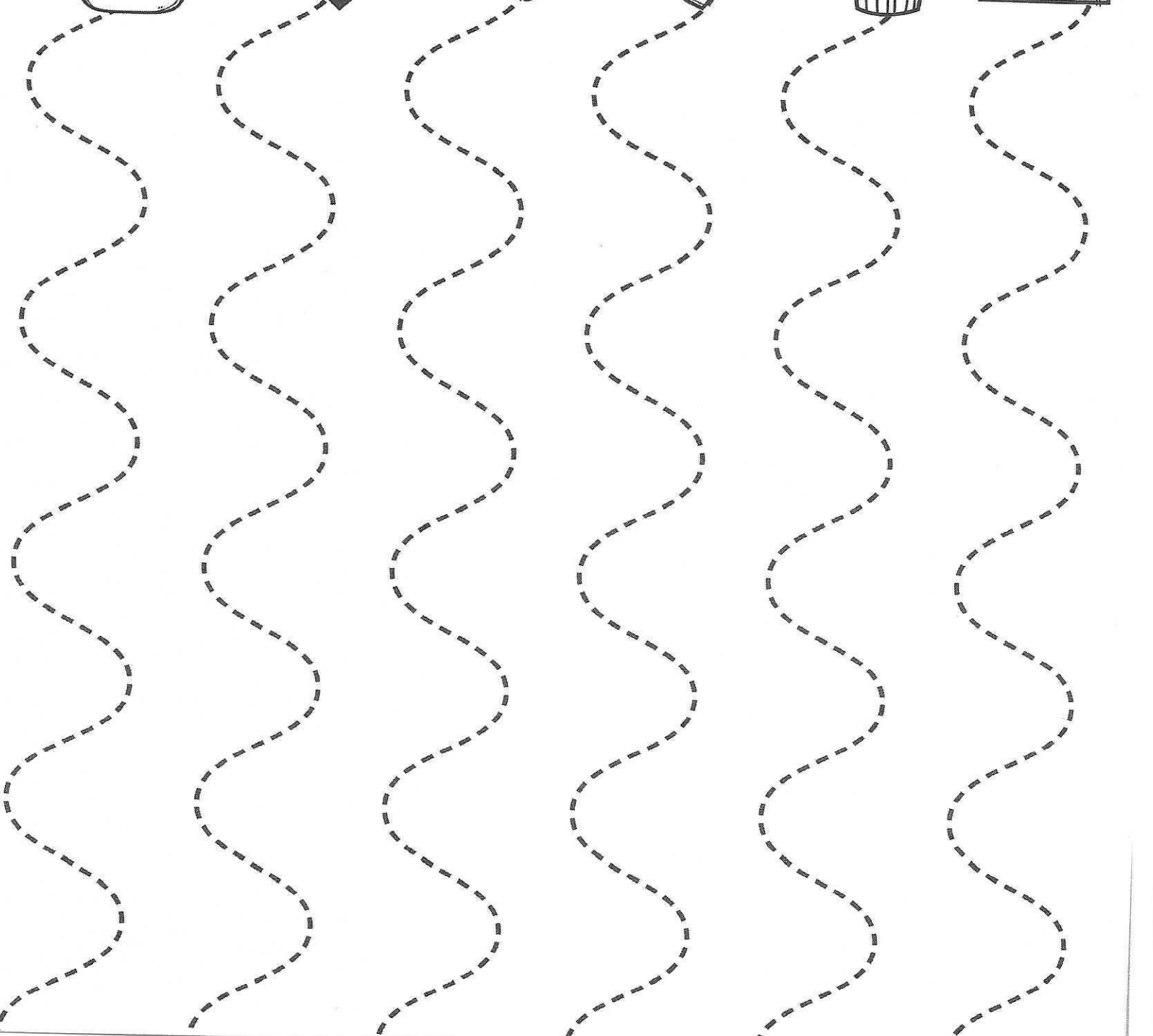
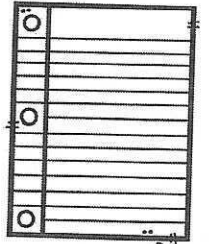
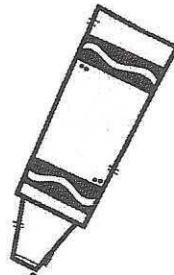
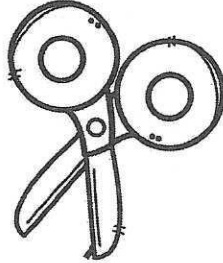
Cut your way from the bottom to the top.



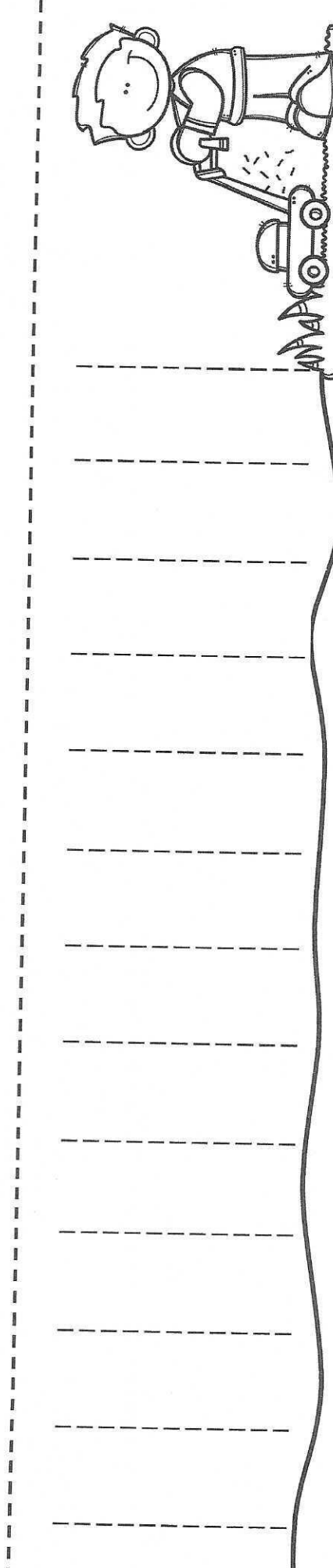
name \_\_\_\_\_

# Cut To The School Supplies

Cut your way from the bottom to the top.

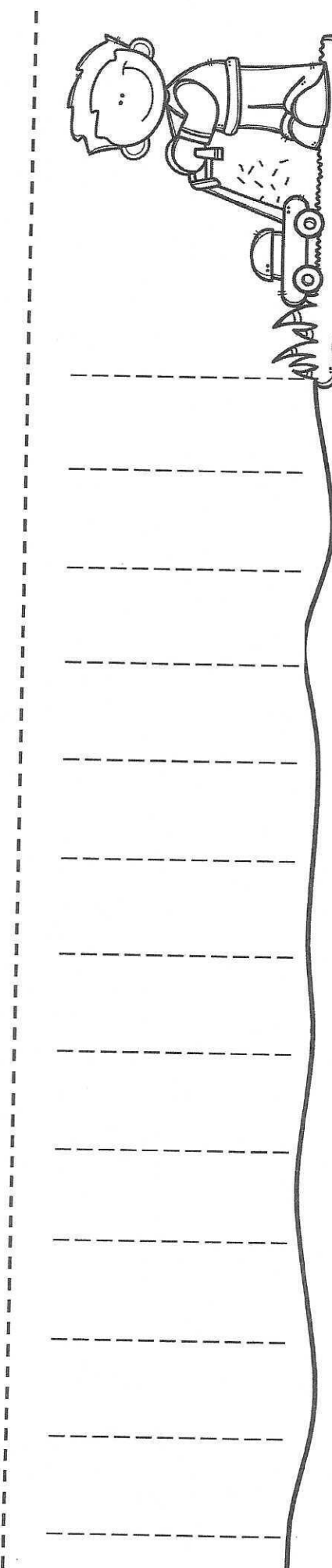


Cut the line along the top for your students. Have students hold the page upside-down to snip the lines to make tall grass. Print on green paper for more fun.



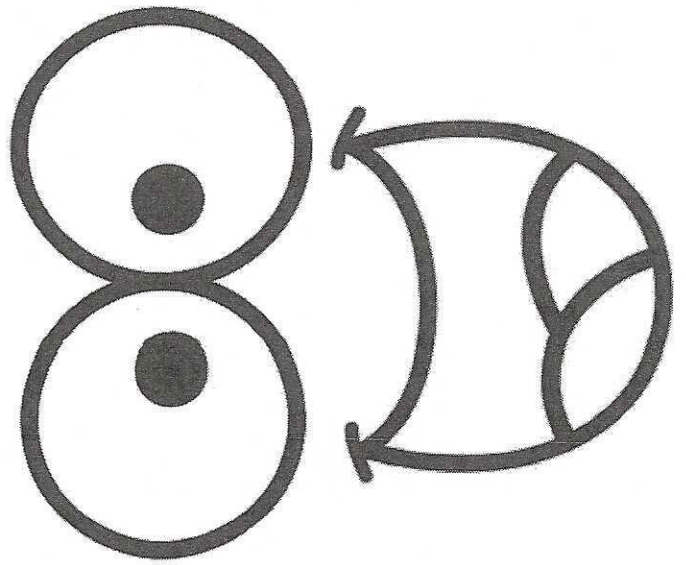
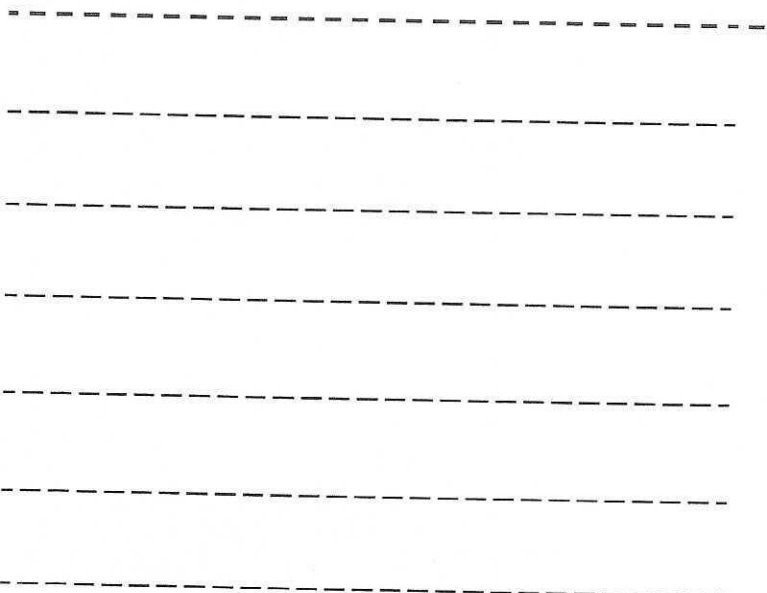
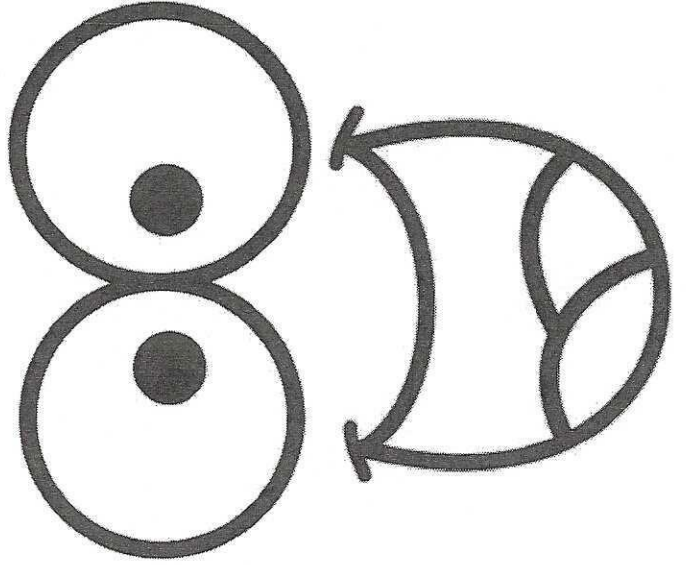
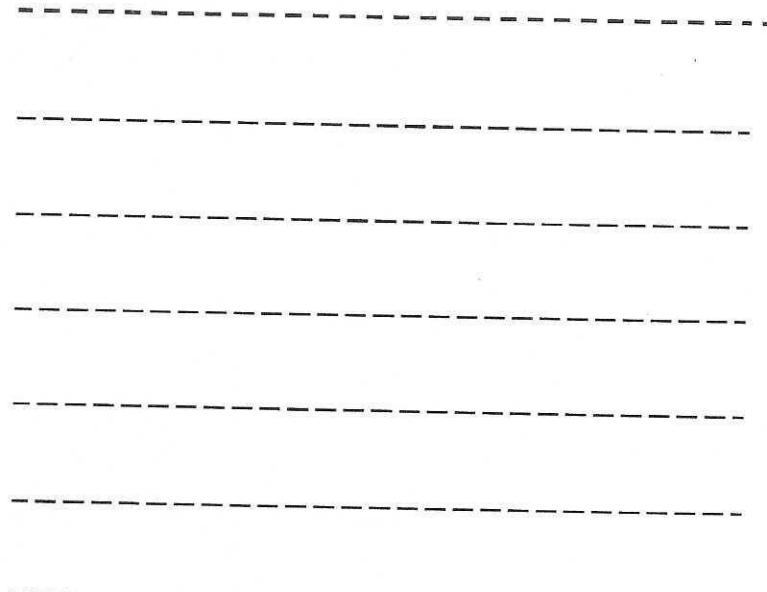
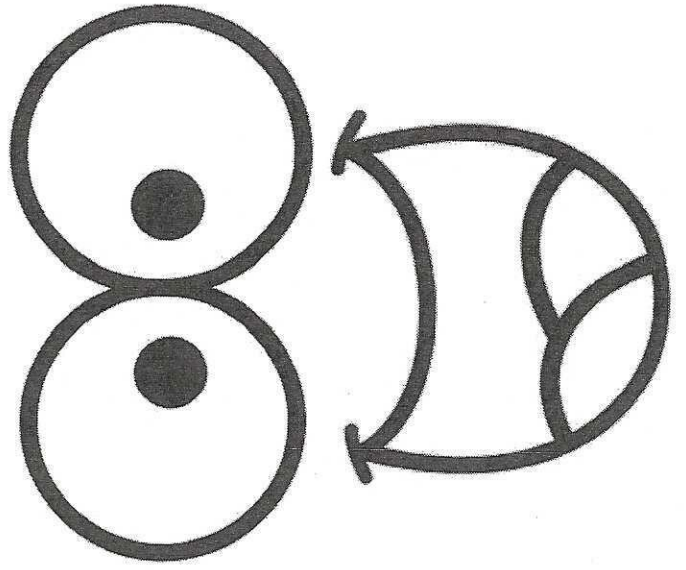
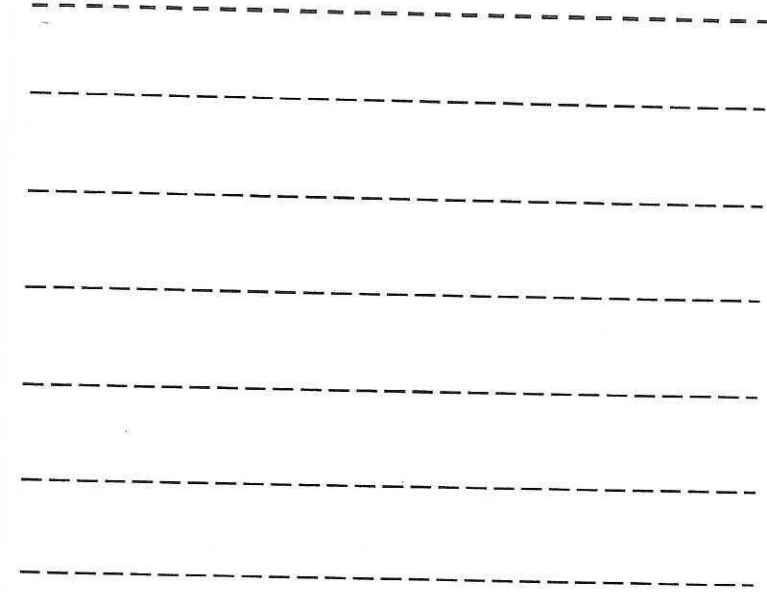
Snip the Grass

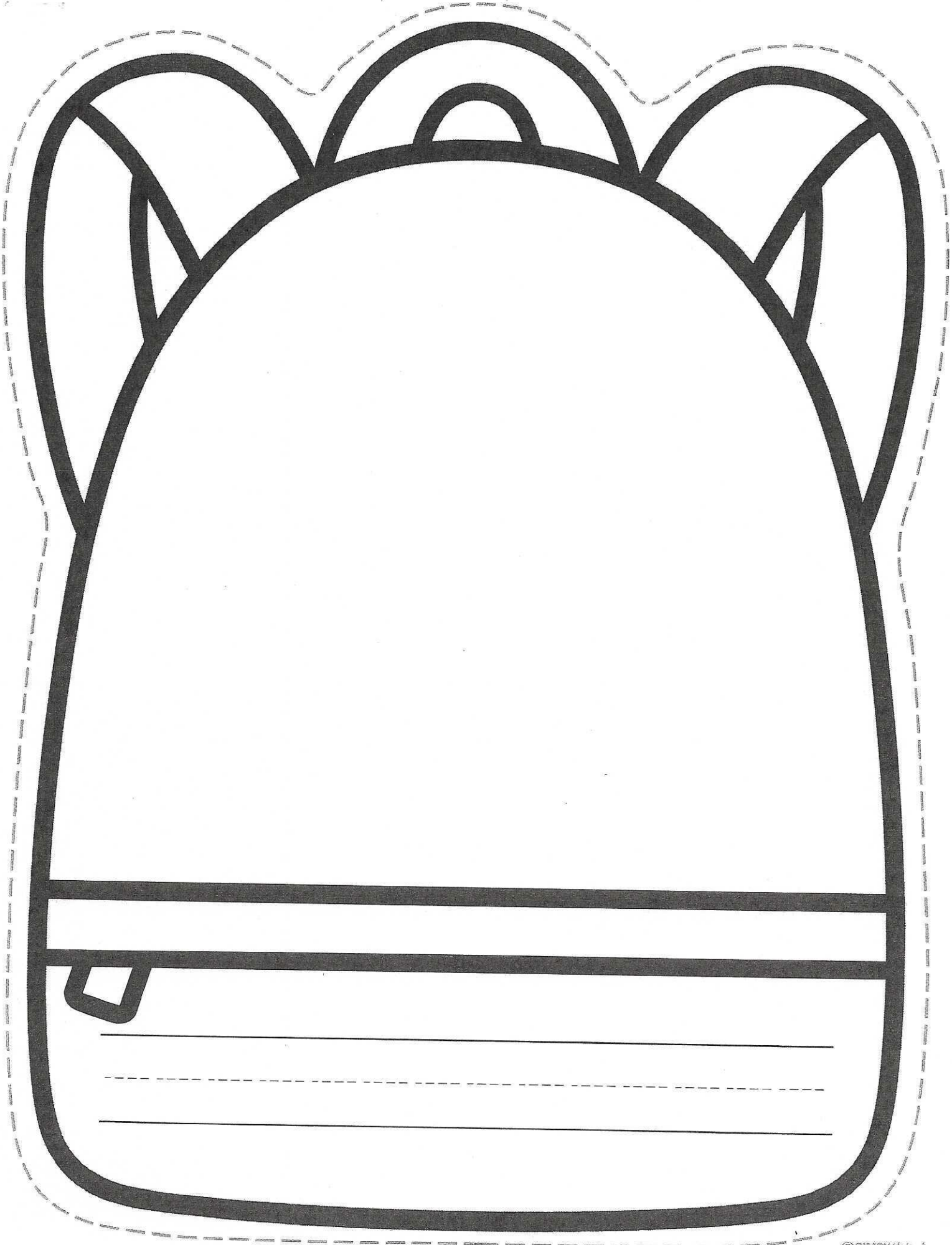
name \_\_\_\_\_

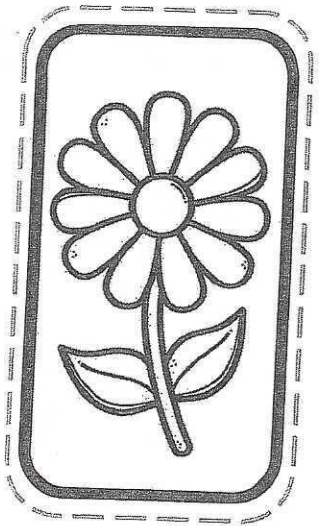
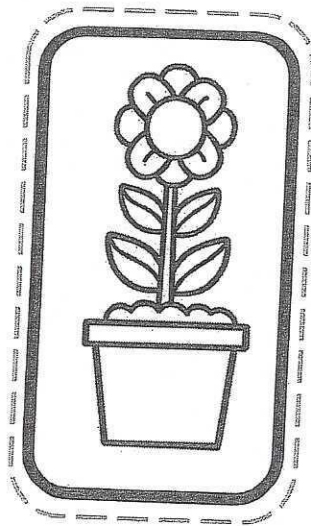
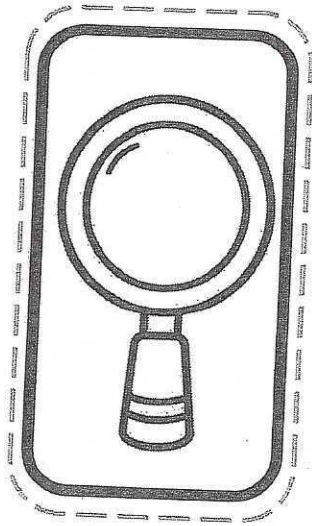
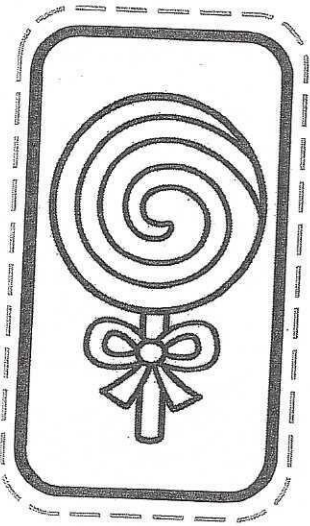
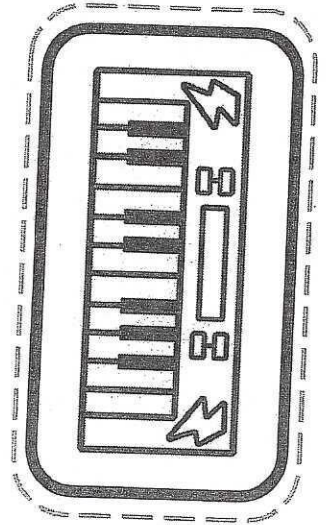
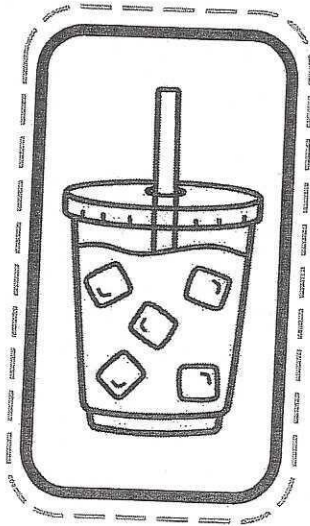
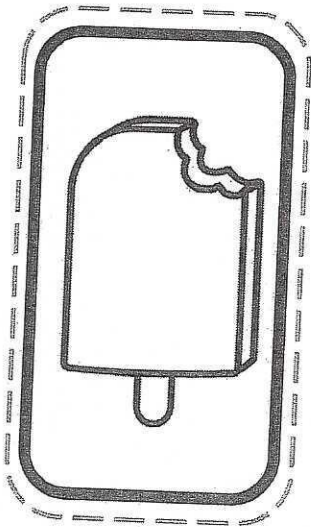
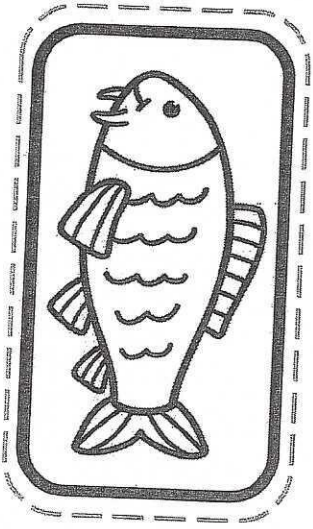
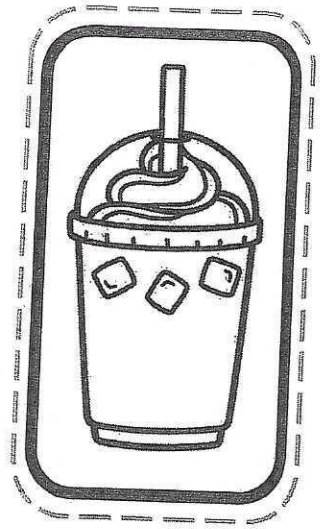
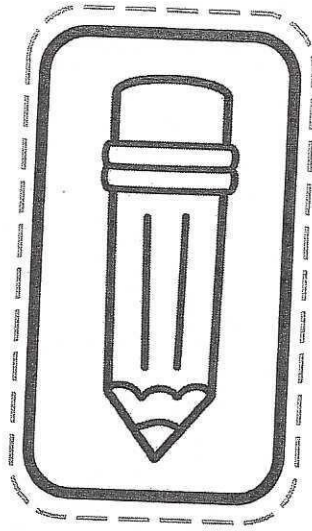
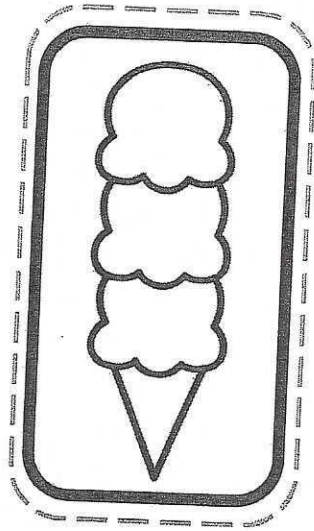
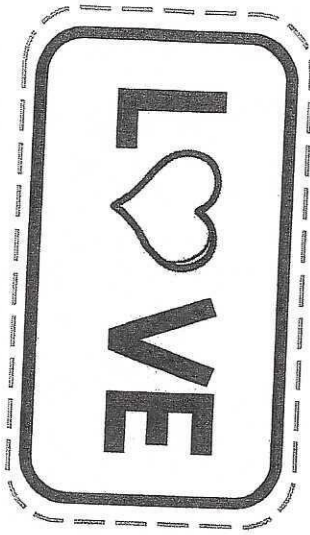


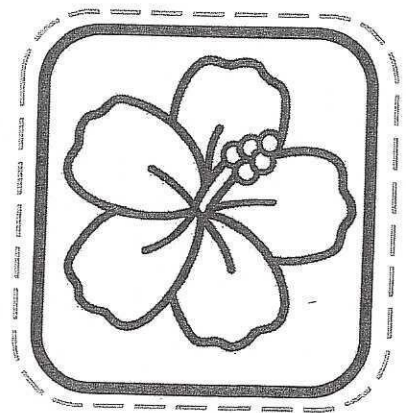
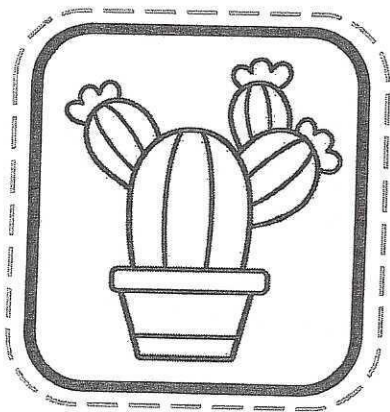
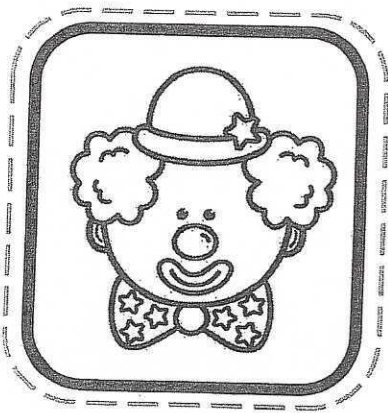
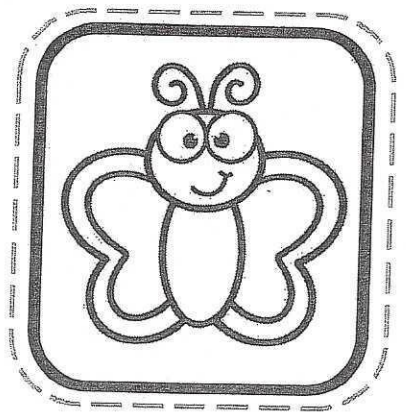
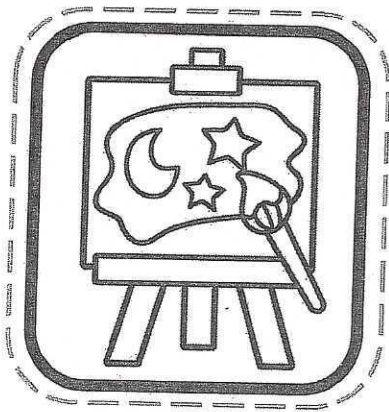
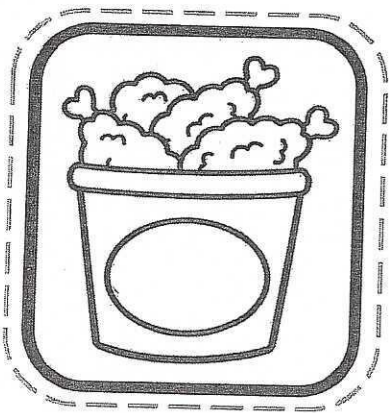
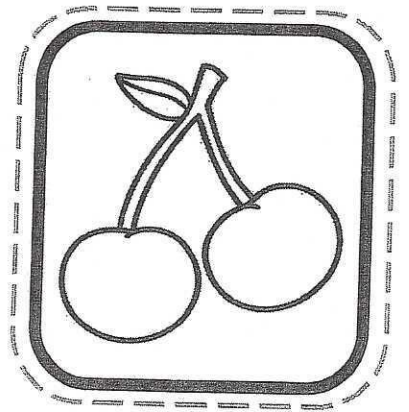
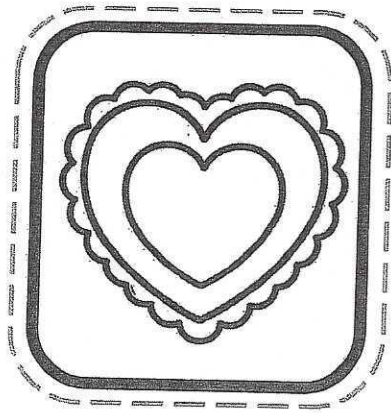
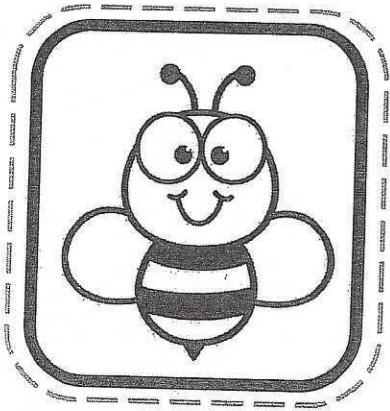
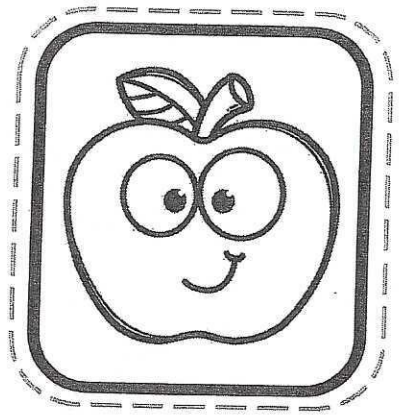
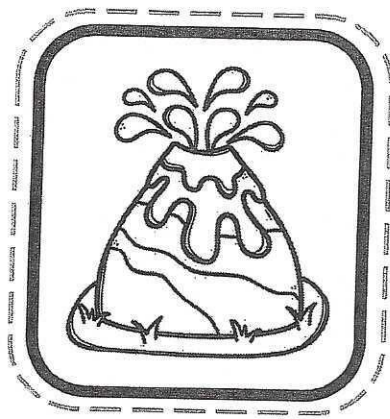
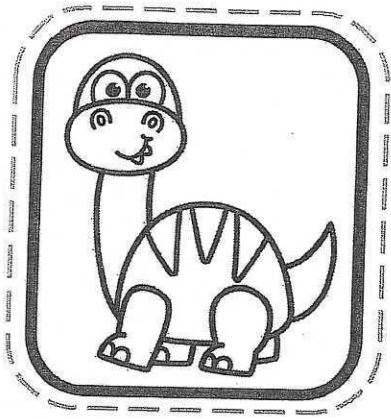
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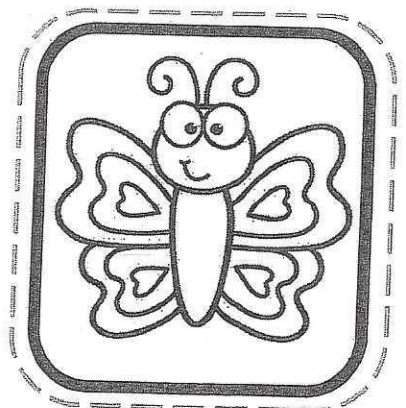
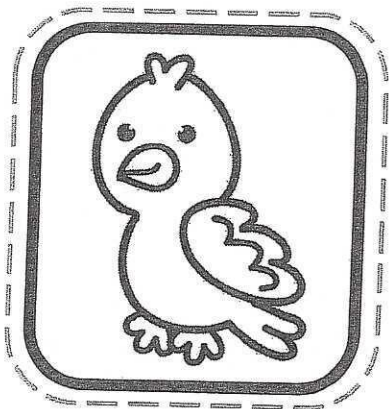
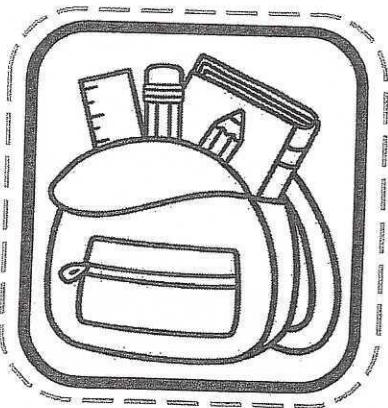
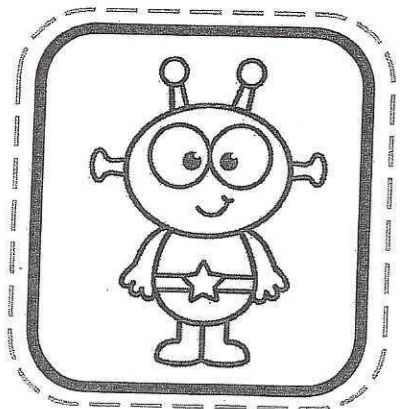
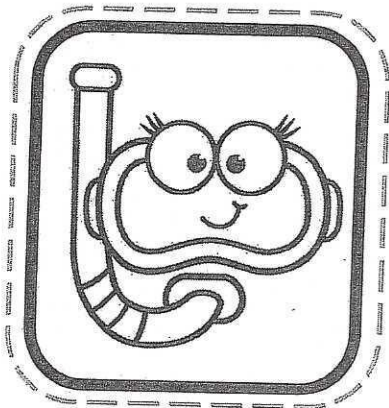
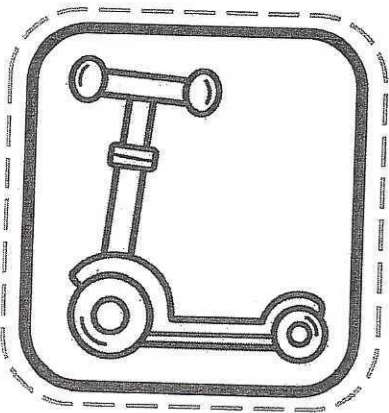
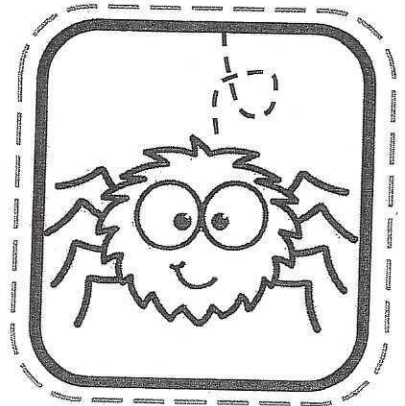
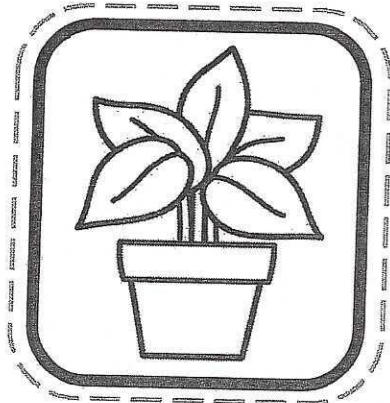
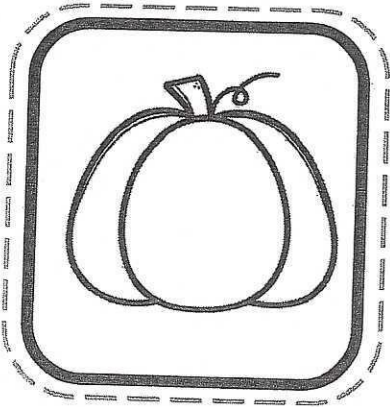
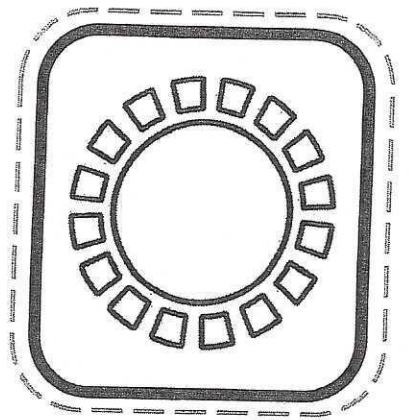
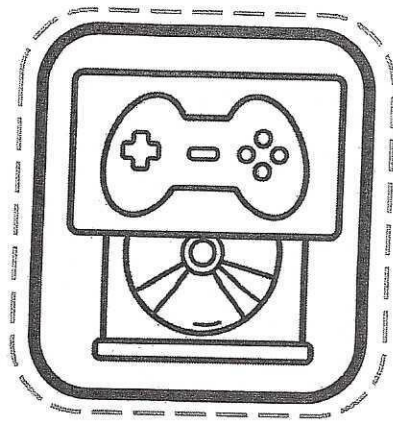
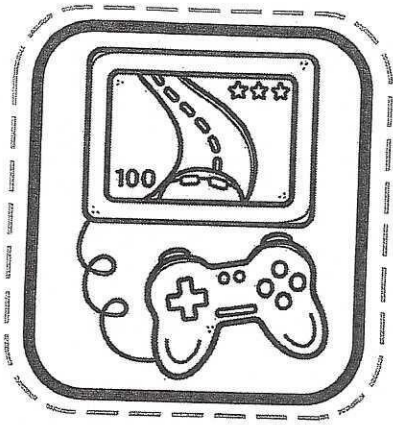
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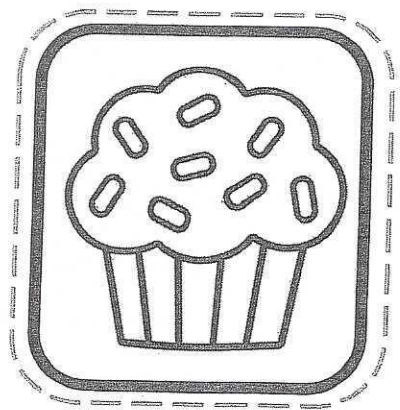
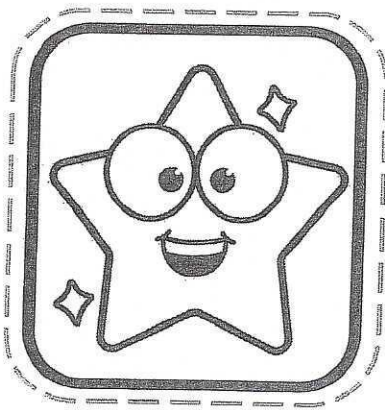
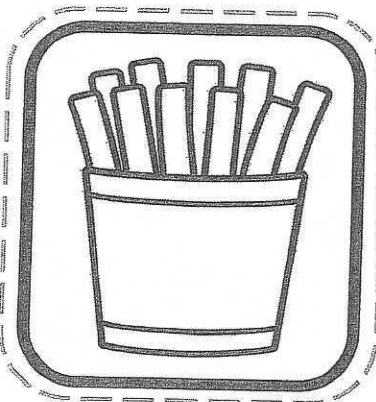
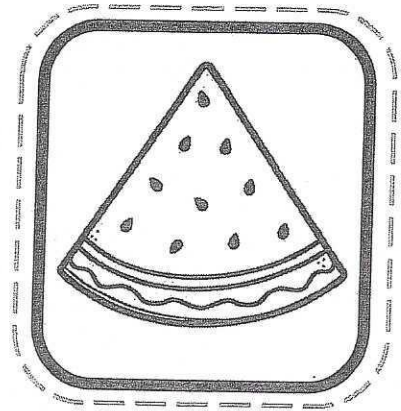
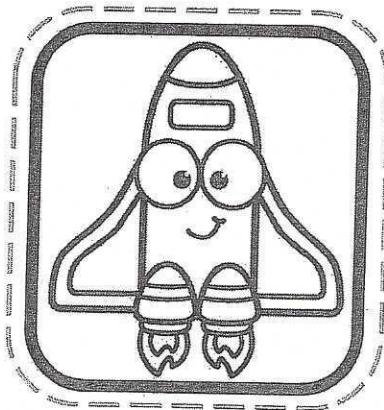
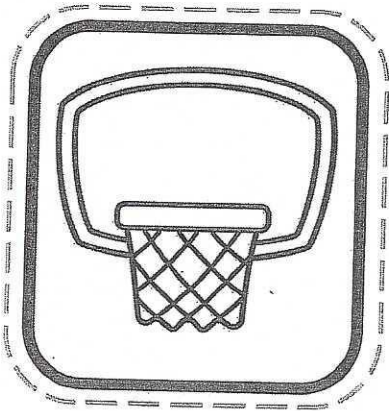
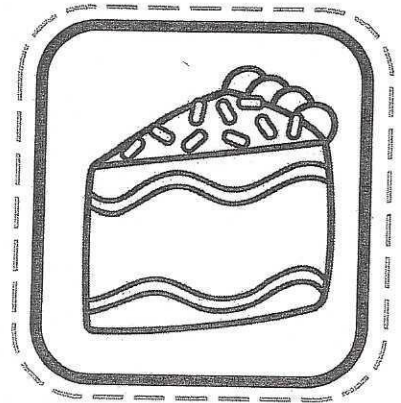
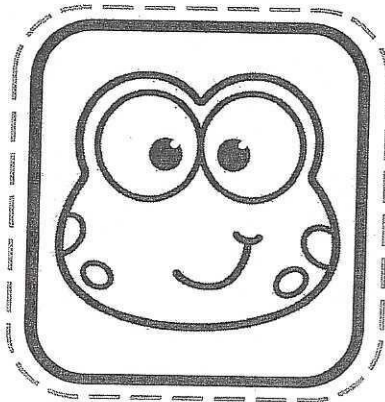
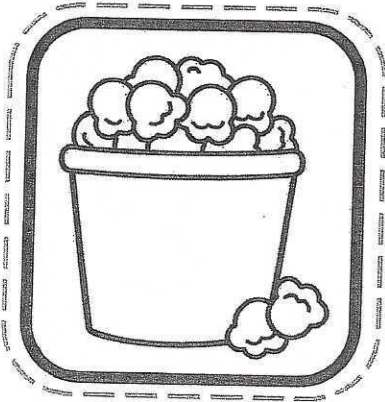
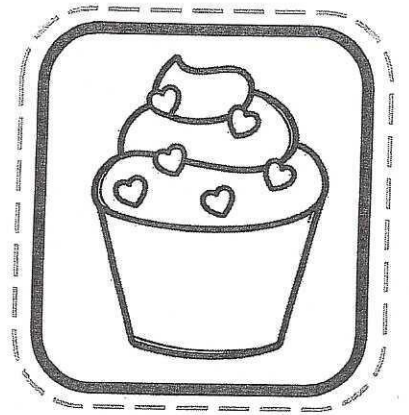
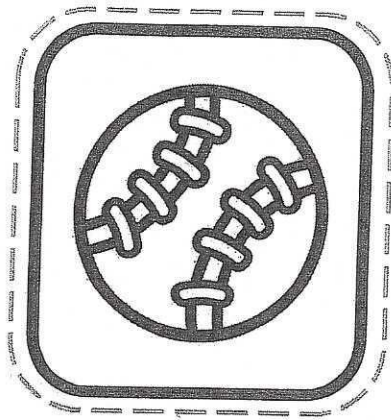
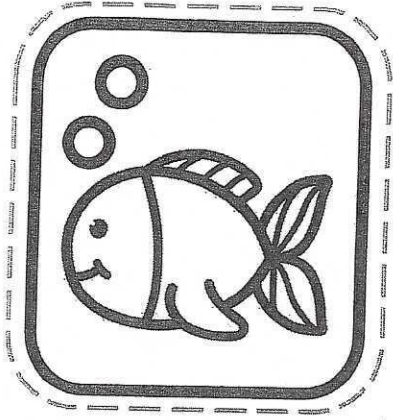












# HIP HIP HOORAY

## LET'S GET READY FOR K

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Kindergarten is an amazing year where students learn many of the foundational skills they will need throughout their entire time in school.

You may be wondering what can you do now to help prepare your student for school?

Below is a list of basic skills to work on and this packet has even more activities to help you prepare your students for kindergarten.

### Language Skills:

- Speak in complete sentences
- Follow two step directions
- Ask for help when needed

### Social Emotional Skills:

- Take turns and share
- Try to solve problems on own
- Interact with others

### Self Care Skills:

- Go to restroom independently
- Button and unbutton own clothes
- Clean up after themselves

### Fine Motor Skills:

- Write first name
- Use pencil, scissors & glue stick
- Color within the lines

### Literacy Skills:

- Sit and listen to a story
- Recognize name in print
- Say the alphabet

### Math Skills:

- Count aloud to 10 or beyond
- Count objects 1 to 1
- Recognize basic shapes



Reading is a huge focus in kindergarten. Please help your student by reading books together. Reading with your child will help promote an interest and love of reading for years to come. It also builds vocabulary. Use expression in your voice, discuss the pictures, and ask your child questions about the story when reading.

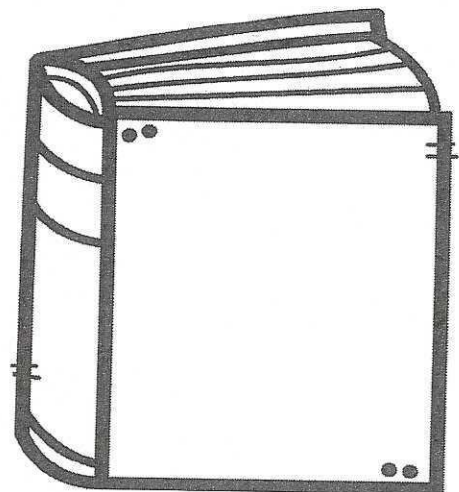
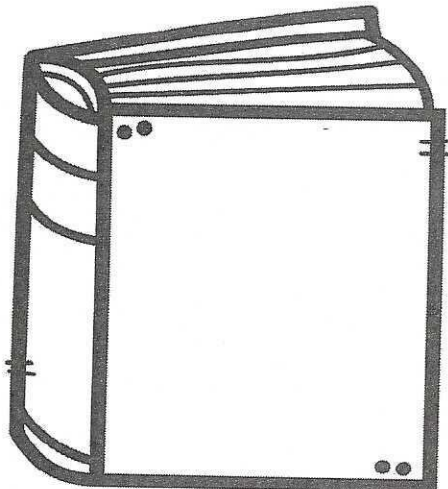
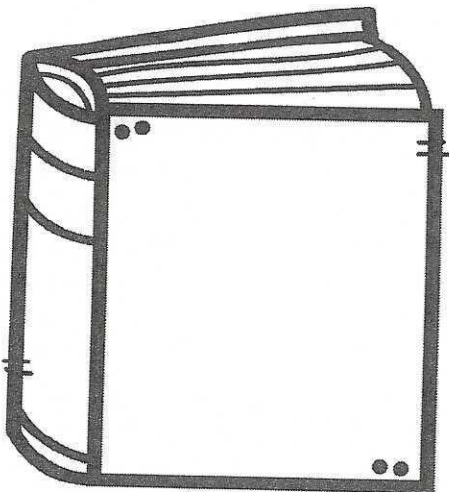


## Let's read.

### Reading Tips:

- Read daily. Talk about the mechanics of reading a book including turning pages from left to right, reading from top to bottom, and how to hold a book.
- Talk about the parts of the book. Include the title, front cover, back cover, author, illustrator, and spine.
- Stop and ask questions about the characters, setting, and storyline.

After you read a book, draw a small picture on one of the covers below to record it.





Playing with playdough has so many benefits. It helps students to develop the fine motor skills needed to write and use scissors. It is also great for creativity, independent thinking, works on hand-eye coordination, and is very calming. We encourage you to play with playdough whenever you can.

## Let's play with playdough.

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tbsp oil
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 ½ cups boiling water
- gel food coloring or scents

### Directions:

1. Mix flour and salt.
2. Mix in cream of tartar.
3. Mix in oil.
4. Add boiling water.
5. Add food coloring or scents as desired.



IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU MAY THINK

# FINE MOTOR SKILLS

©SIMPLYkinder

Spark your child's imagination and enhance their cognitive growth through interactive exercises that improve fine motor abilities!

**Fine motor skills involve the coordination of small muscles in the hands and fingers, enabling them to perform tasks that require precision and control.**

These activities stimulate cognitive development, enhance language skills, and promote independence.

**Fine motor skills are also crucial as they lay the foundation for drawing and writing!**

These activities are meant to be enjoyable and not feel like a chore. Encourage your child to engage in fine motor activities for short periods and gradually increase the duration as their skills improve.



## FINE MOTOR ACTIVITIES FOR HOME

- Playdough: Squeeze, roll, shape playdough for hand strength and dexterity.
- Stringing Beads: Thread large beads with string for coordination and manipulation.
- Scissor Practice: Cut shapes from paper with child size scissors for cutting skills.
- Puzzles: Fit jigsaw pieces together for coordination and problem-solving.
- Buttoning and Zipping: Practice fastening clothes for finger strength and coordination.
- Sticker Play: Peel and place stickers to refine grip and finger control.
- Drawing and Coloring: Use various materials for fine motor skills and creativity.
- Tweezers: Pick up small objects with child-friendly tweezers for precision and strength.
- Threading: Thread Cheerios or beads on string for concentration and coordination.
- Cutting and Pasting: Cut pictures and glue onto paper for cutting and gluing skills.

# HELPING YOUR STUDENT WITH

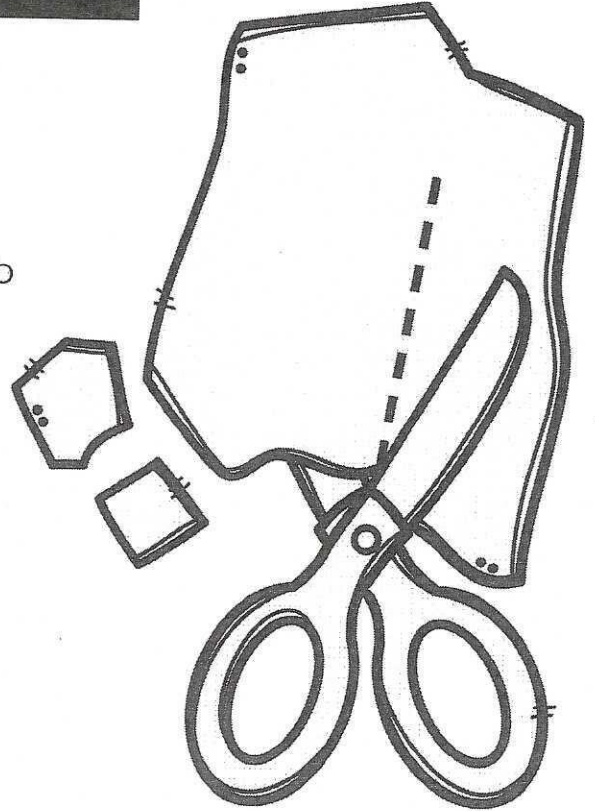
# SCISSOR SKILLS

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Learning to cut is an important developmental milestone for young kids. It enhances their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and creativity. With proper guidance and patience, you can help your student to become confident and independent cutters.

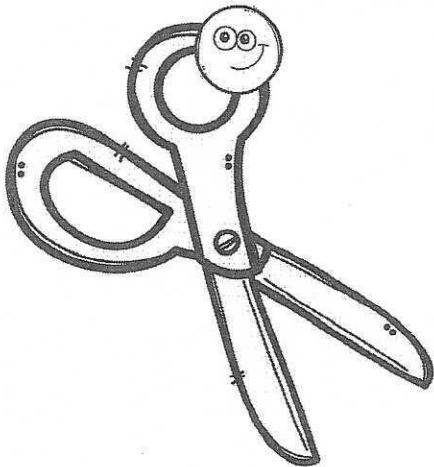
## HOW TO TEACH CUTTING

- Use child size, blunt-nose scissors that are the correct orientation for their primary hand.
- Your thumb always goes on top and the other fingers on the bottom. You can mark your thumb (or the top whole) with a smiley face or sticker.
- Point your scissors away from your body.
- When you cut keep your shoulder tucked. We do not want them to “chicken wing” their arm while they cut.
- Use your other hand as a helper to move and guide the paper.
- Open and close the scissors, pushing the scissors and pulling the paper towards you.
- Talk about scissor safety. Only cut appropriate materials. Only use scissors when it's time to cut. Only cut while sitting down. Always hold scissors blades down when you need to walk with them.



## WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

- Explore scissors on different surfaces like play dough to make it fun and strengthen fine motor skills.
- Start with thicker paper that is not flimsy. Construction paper or a paper plate work well. This will be easier than a flimsy piece of copy paper.



WE'RE DOING IT, WE'RE LEARNING

# THE ALPHABET

©SIMPLY Kinder

Learning letters and sounds is incredibly important for your child's early education and sets the stage for their future success.

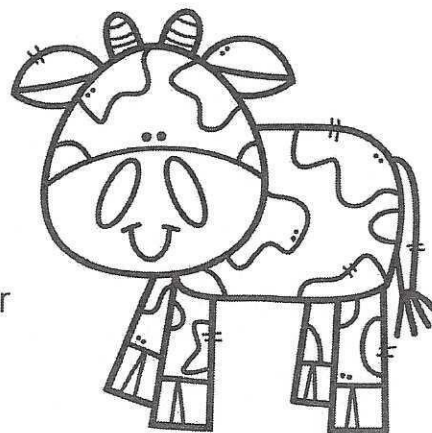
**It may seem like a simple task, but it IS the foundation of their reading and writing, which are essential life skills in the world today!**

Once students can identify letters and connect them with their respective sounds, they can begin combining these sounds to create words. It is an essential foundational step on the road to reading.

**Without a solid grasp of letters and their sounds, reading becomes difficult and frustrating (and we do not want that).**

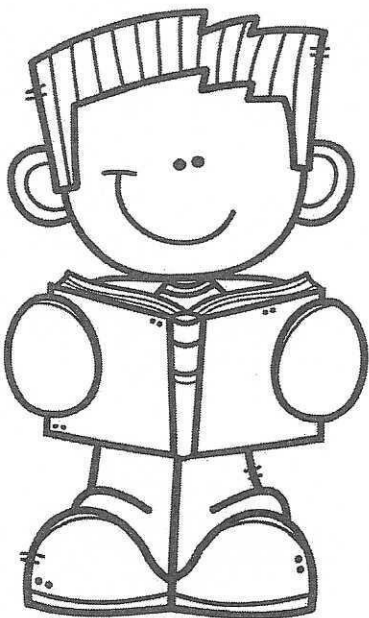
## IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

- There are 26 letters and 44 sounds in the English language. We will start with the letter names and most common letter sounds for those letters (consonants & short vowels).
- We will learn the names and sounds interchangeably. Letter names help us to call the marking something and the sounds help us to read. It's like saying this animal is a cow and it says moo.



## HOW TO HELP AT HOME

- Practice with flashcards. Focus on the sounds since those are what we use to read.
- Start with the letters in your child's name. These are the most meaningful letters for your student.
- Say the alphabet, don't sing it. This helps us to slow down and not blend letters together. You can add claps where the dashes are in this sequence: abcdefg-hijklmn-opq-rst-uvw-xyz.
- Read. Read books together and model reading as an adult. Kids don't learn to read by being read to but exposing them to print is essential in understanding letters lead to reading.



DON'T LOSE YOUR MIND, HOW TO WORK ON

# HOMework AT HOME

Homework serves several purposes in your child's education.

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**In our class we give homework to reinforce what is learned in class, build independence, and create educational routines.**

Homework is meant to be done independently. The goal is always for your child to be able to do the tasks correctly and for that to happen they will have had instruction on the skills already. However, since our students are still so young, we are working on building that independence.

**Homework should be a positive and enriching experience for your child.**

Be patient and flexible. Create an environment where your child feels supported and encouraged.

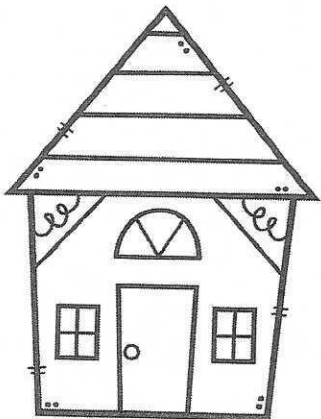
## IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

- Homework is not meant to frustrate you or your student. Keep it positive and communicate if it is not so.
- Create a routine that works for your family (like after dinner or at 4:00.) Know that some kids may need a break right after school.
- Work in a well-light space that is free of distractions.
- Encourage independence but remember because of their age that's a skill they need to learn.



## HOW TO HELP AT HOME

- If your child is stuck on something, try to find tangible ways to show them. If it's an addition problem, use objects etc.
- Break down larger tasks into smaller, manageable steps. Help your student focus on one step at a time, ensuring they understand each concept before moving on.



## HOW TO SUPPORT

# NUMBERS AND COUNTING

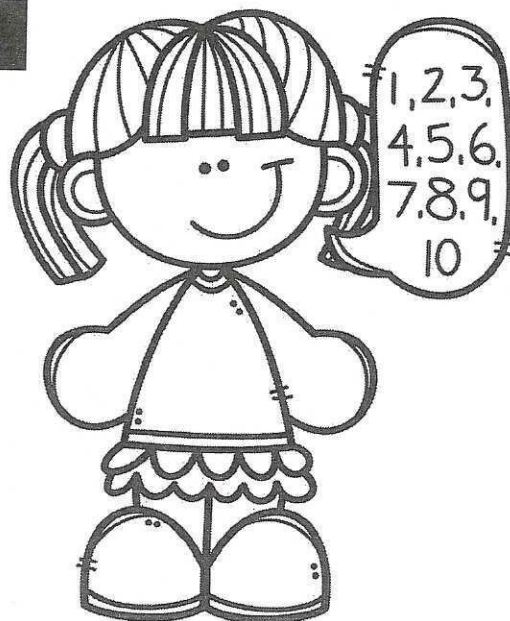
Counting is a foundational math skill that we will work on all year. It is important for our students to develop strong counting abilities as it lays the groundwork for more advanced mathematical skills needed throughout their education.

**A strong sense of numbers will help your student not only work on basic arithmetic, but also problem solve, think critically, and overall function in the world.**

We will work this year to count objects to \_\_\_\_\_ and count aloud to \_\_\_\_\_. Here are some ways to help at home.

### TIPS FOR AT HOME

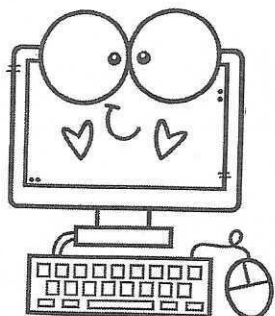
- Count aloud daily. Go as far as your child can get independently and then help them go just a few more numbers.
- Count objects with one-to-one correspondence. Say one, push one rock. Say two, push the second rock. Take them as far as they can go independently and then help them go a little bit further each time. Count everything.
- Change your start point when counting. "Let's count but let's start at the number six."
- Make it fun. Play Go Fish, Uno, or War. Do dot-to-dots.
- Use charts to help. A simple number line or hundreds chart is a great tool to support learning. (You can also find lots of games online by searching phrases like 'hundreds chart games for kindergarten').



### RECOMMENDED WEBSITES & APPS

Moose Math App  
To Do Math App  
[www.FunBrain.com](http://www.FunBrain.com)

[www.TeachYourMonsterToCount.com](http://www.TeachYourMonsterToCount.com)  
[www.abcMouse.com](http://www.abcMouse.com)  
[www.KhanAcademy.org](http://www.KhanAcademy.org)



## TIPS AND TRICKS TO WORK ON

# HANDWRITING AT HOME

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As families, you play a crucial role in shaping our children's academic journey, and one essential skill that forms the foundation of their educational success is handwriting.

**Developing strong handwriting skills not only aids in clear communication but also enhances cognitive abilities, fine motor control, and overall academic performance.**

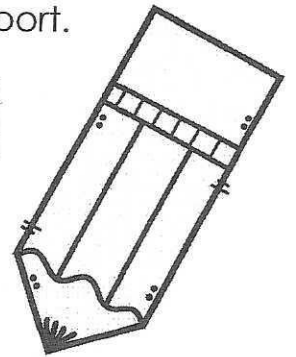
However, in an era dominated by digital communication, children often spend less time honing their handwriting skills. That's why it's important for us to step in and provide guidance and support.

**Whether your child is just starting to learn how to write or needs improvement in their penmanship, your guidance and encouragement can make a significant difference.**

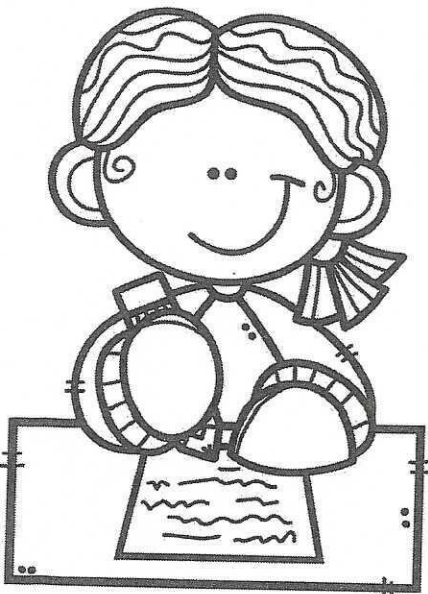
That's why it's important for us to step in and provide guidance and support.

## THINGS TO KNOW

- Help your child to hold the pencil correctly. Use a tripod grip, placing thumb and index finger on the pencil, with middle finger providing support.



## WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME



- Use good old paper and pencil often. Also use more fun materials like notepads and different writing instruments. This creates novelty and excitement.
- Search for free worksheets to print and practice at home.
- Use a highlighter to trace letters for your child to write. You can put a dot as the starting point.
- Write the same word or sentence next to each other. This provides modeling and takes some of the pressure off.
- Make learning proper formation multi-sensory. Write in sand, pudding mix, or shaving cream.

HOW CAN WE

# SUPPORT READING AT HOME

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Reading lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning, so it is imperative we work together to support your child's reading development. Here are some ways to help at home.

## TIPS TO SUPPORT READING

- Surround your child with books. Have a library in your home even if it's just a basket of books. Read together and let your child see you reading.
- Before students can read themselves, they must develop phonemic awareness skills. This is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. These skills include rhyming, hearing first/middle/last sounds, changing sounds, segmenting words into sounds. Practice these auditory skills often.
- Work with the alphabet. Letters and sounds are the gateway to decoding. Immerse your child in games, songs, videos, etc. that have the alphabet.
- Support decoding skills by reading words they are ready for using the phonics skills they know.
- Reading is breathe in, writing is breathe out. Provide experiences where your child can use writing materials. Start with pictures. Label the pictures with the first sound they hear and then as they become more proficient, keep showing them more.
- Think and talk about what you read. Ask questions about text where the answers are very clear and ask questions where your child can have opinions or guess about something that would happen.

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

[www.Lalilo.com](http://www.Lalilo.com)  
[www.Starfall.com](http://www.Starfall.com)  
[www.Nessy.com](http://www.Nessy.com)

[www.TeachYourMonsterToRead.com](http://www.TeachYourMonsterToRead.com)  
[www.abcMouse.com](http://www.abcMouse.com)  
[www.KhanAcademy.org](http://www.KhanAcademy.org)

