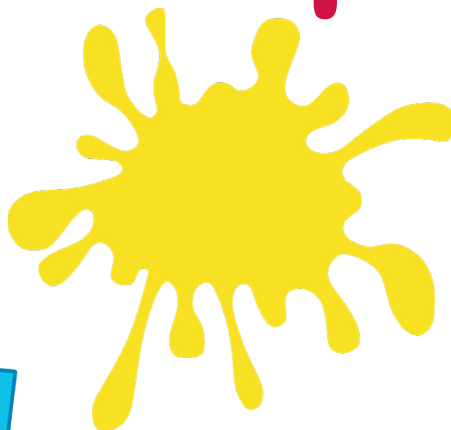
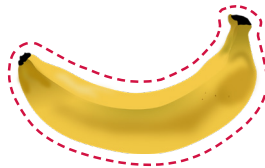
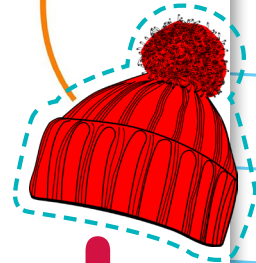
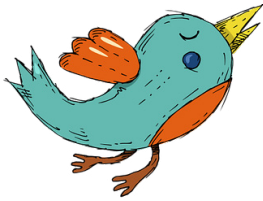
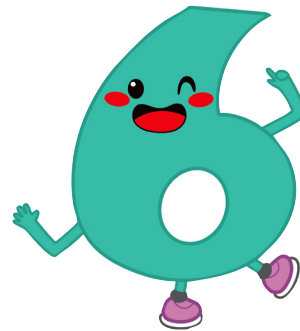
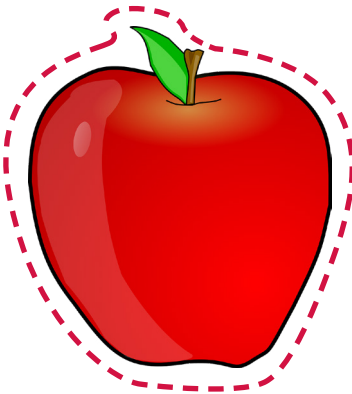


# My starting school scrapbook



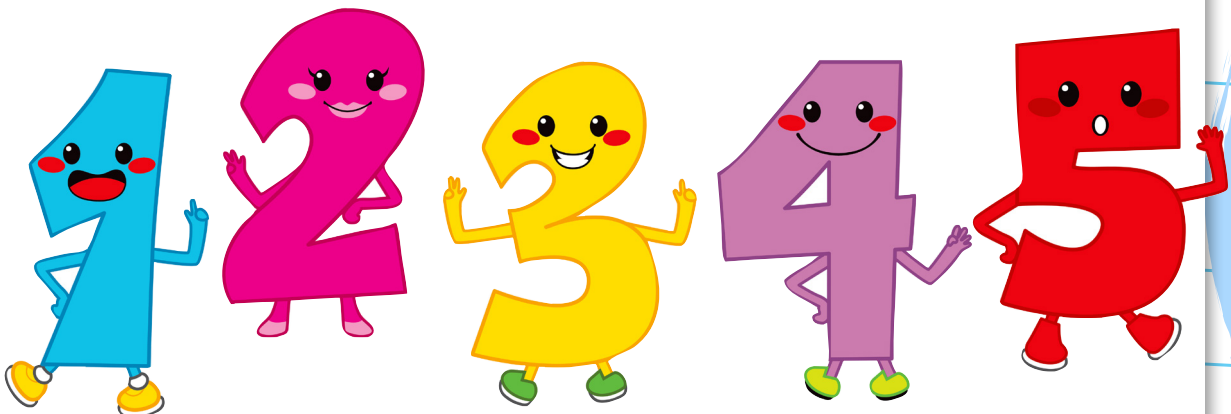
## Are you a soon-to-be Reception parent?

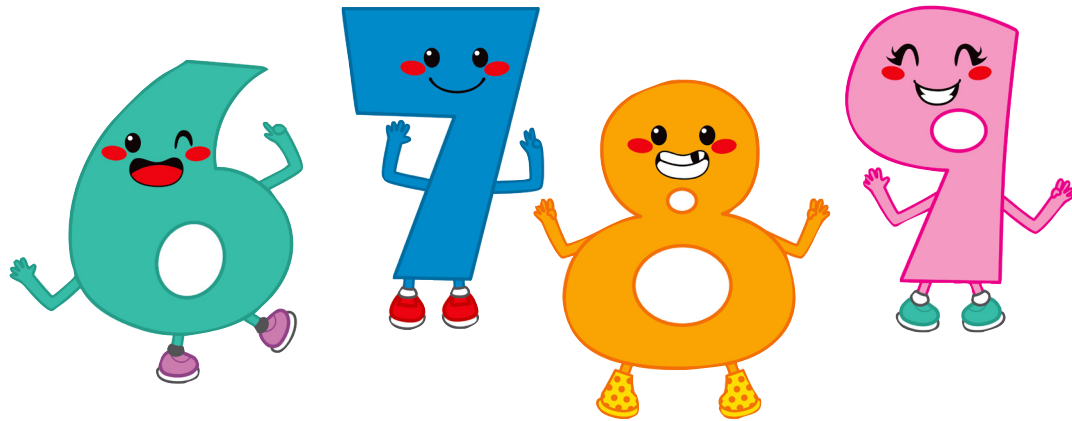
Starting school is a very exciting time for children (if a little scary for parents!), their first step towards independence and autonomy. As a former Reception class teacher and parent, I know that helping your child to make the best possible start on their educational journey is not all about academic work. The most important things a child needs when they start school are confidence, encouragement and support. If you show your child that school is a fun, exciting and amazing place to learn and grow then that is what they will see. Remember, a positive start to school can have a lasting effect on a child's educational journey so try to be as positive as possible!



At the beginning of Reception, many parents become worried that their child doesn't know all their numbers, isn't counting to 100 and can't read or write yet. These skills, while vital later in primary school, are not the most important ones to teach your child before they begin their formal education. Teaching your child to dress themselves, cut up their own dinner, rejoice in books and be able to play and take turns will stand them in better stead than being able to recite the alphabet backwards, I can assure you! Other helpful skills include being able to recognise their name from a selection of other words, being able to cut out basic shapes and learning to hold a pencil using the tripod grip.

There are many things that you can do every day to help your child to become 'school ready'. Playing with playdough, colouring and cutting with scissors are all simple activities which help develop the muscles in your child's fingers, which will make pencil control and writing easier. At school, children need to listen carefully to instructions and respond appropriately. Playing games like





'Simon says' and 'I spy' will help to refine these skills (before my son knew his letter sounds, we used to play 'I spy' with colours instead). Making sure that your child can manage their own personal care (dressing, feeding and toileting) is very important and practising daily in the run-up to September will really help your child to feel more independent at school. Finally, primary school is a very social environment and being happy to play cooperatively, share and take turns is vital for effective learning. Playing board or card games with friends and family is an easy and enjoyable way to practise these skills.

This booklet aims to begin to develop your child's skills in order to help them to make the best possible start. The activities focus on early English, maths and science skills as well as supporting your child's physical and social skills. Remember that all children learn at their own pace and in their own time. If your child is not ready to try an activity, move on to something else. Please don't try to complete these activities one after another – just spending ten minutes a day on them when you can will be more beneficial to your little learner.

Most of all, try to relax and enjoy this exciting time in your child's life – and keep tissues to hand for that first morning at school (I know I needed them!)

Jennifer Smith  
Reception teacher  
and parent

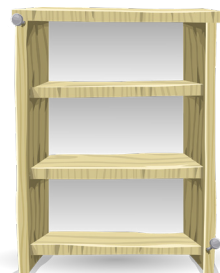
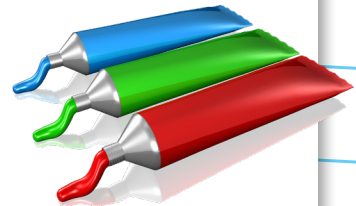
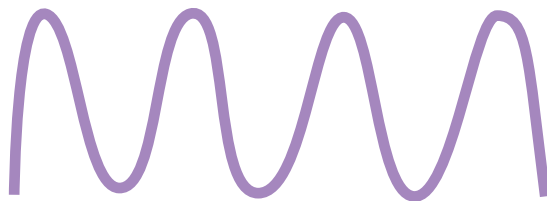
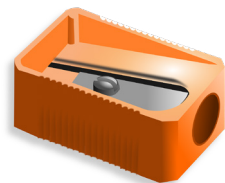
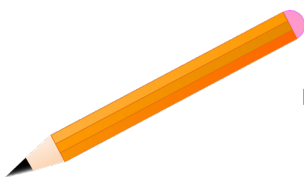


## Finger strength training

The muscles in your fingers are just like all the other muscles in your body – you need to train them to make them strong! Strong hands and fingers will make things like writing much easier. These activities will help you to train your fingers.



These pictures are of things you might find in your classroom. Carefully follow the lines to match the items that belong together. Try to hold the pencil as shown in the picture above.



### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

If your little learner struggles with the tripod grip, ask them to hold a folded piece of paper or tissue with their little finger and ring finger to help them to form the grip correctly.



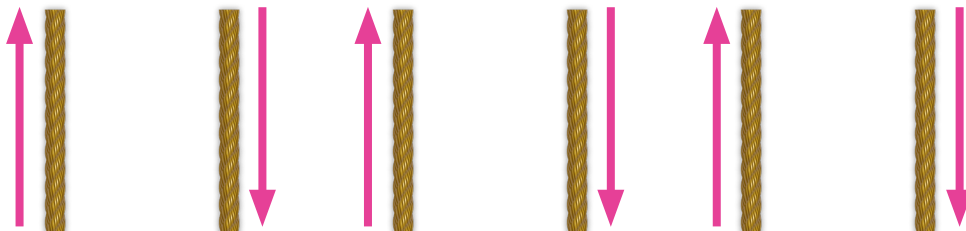
## Hands-on PE

At school, you will have PE (Physical Education) lessons.  
This activity is a PE lesson for your fingers!

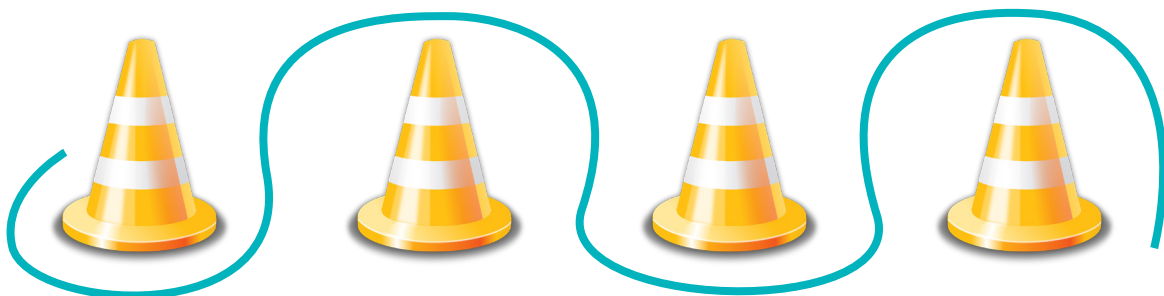
Bounce the ball to the basket by following the lines with your pencil.



Climb these ropes all the way to the top and then back down.



Dribble the ball between and around the cones.



Play traffic lights! Move slowly on the orange line, stop at the red dot and then move quickly over the green line.



Well done – I hope your fingers have enjoyed their first PE lesson!

## Scissor skills

Cutting with scissors will also help you to develop the muscles you need for writing.

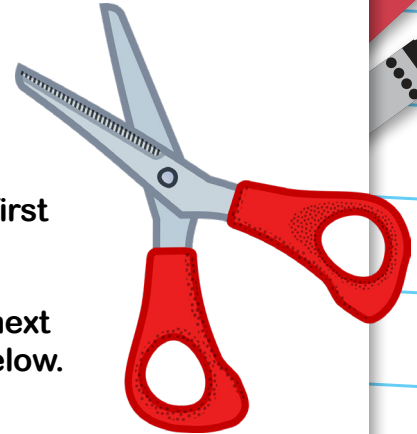
**You will need:**

- A small set of scissors
- Glue



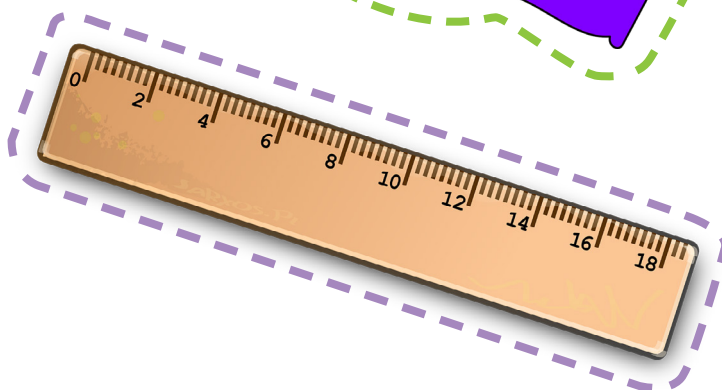
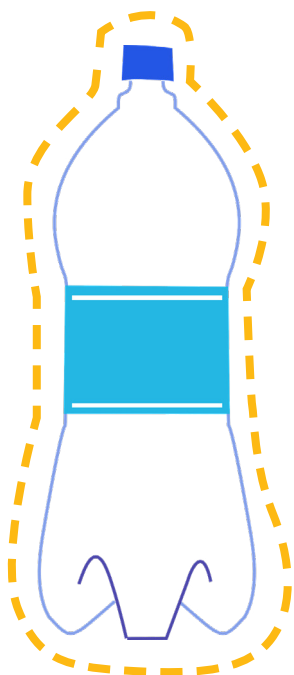
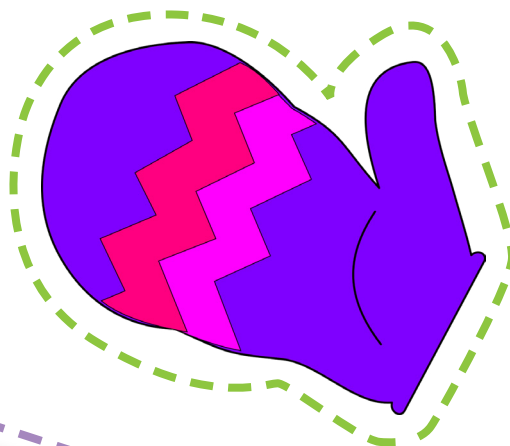
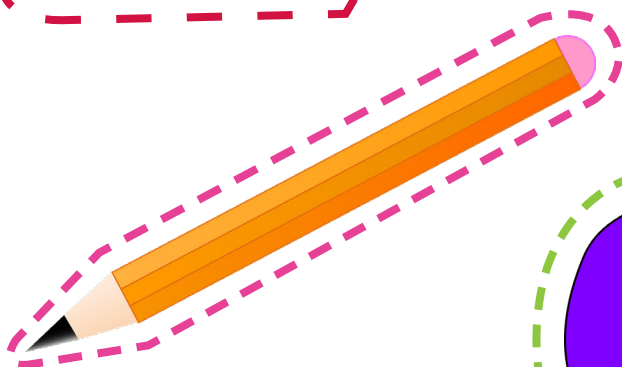
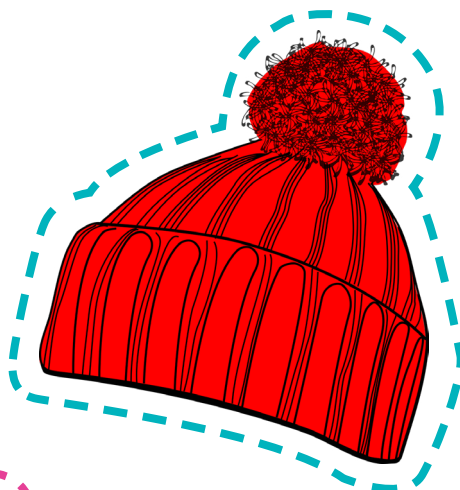
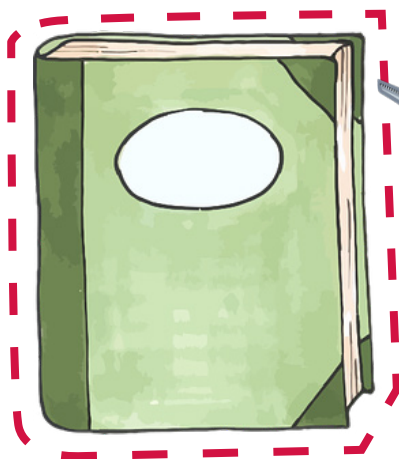
Can you help Ted to pack his bag for his very first day at school?

Use your scissors to cut out the items on the next page carefully; stick them into the bookbag below.

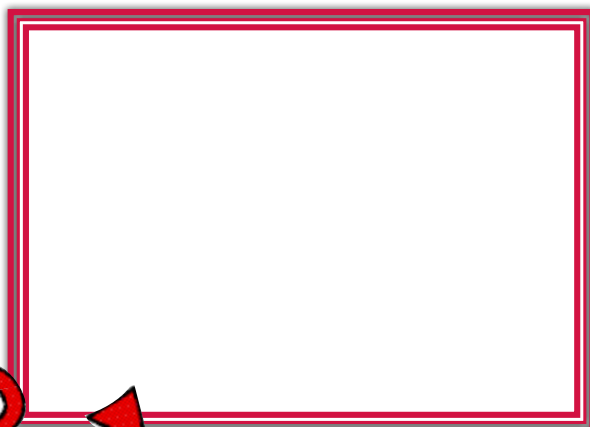


### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

The correct cutting position is with the elbow down at the side. If your little learner tends to stick their elbow out, place a small soft toy under their arm and ask them to hold it there while they are cutting. Also, be sure that they turn the paper to go around corners rather than turning the scissors.



What do you think you will take to school with you? Draw a picture of the things you might have in your bag every day.



Read this story to your little learner. Remember to encourage them to ask questions and talk about the story.

## Ted's first day at school

Ted woke up bright and early. He stretched and rubbed his eyes. Suddenly, he remembered something very exciting: today was his first day at school! He jumped out of bed and had a quick shower, then raced down the stairs. He decided that he would need a huge breakfast! After eating, Ted raced upstairs to get ready for school. "Don't forget to brush your teeth!" his mummy called. He brushed his teeth very carefully and splashed water on his face. In his bedroom, his uniform had been laid out ready for him. He put on his new school trousers, a crisp white shirt, a stripy tie and a warm red jumper. When he was dressed, Ted looked at himself in the mirror. He felt very smart and very grown up.

Walking to school, Ted started to wonder what the day was going to be like. Would he make some new friends? Might he get to paint a picture or build a tower out of blocks? Before he knew it, Ted had arrived at school. Mrs Teddington, his new teacher, was waiting at the classroom door with



Welcome to my  
class. You are  
going to have  
lots of fun!





a huge smile on her face. She looked very happy and friendly! Ted gave his mum a big hug and kissed her goodbye. A tiny tear rolled down Mummy's cheek. "Don't be upset Mummy, I will see you very soon and I am going to have a very good day," soothed Ted. Mummy smiled and wiped the tear away. As Ted walked into school, Mrs Teddington said, "Good morning!" and told him to go and see if he could find his name on a card and post it into a box. After he had followed her instructions he went to sit with the other children on the carpet.

There were lots of other children in Ted's class. Mrs Teddington told them that the first thing she needed to do was take the register, to make sure that everyone had arrived. Afterwards, Mrs Teddington told the children that they could choose from lots of different activities. Ted chose to paint a picture of his mummy. He painted very carefully and was very pleased with his picture. Mrs Teddington said that it was wonderful, and he even got to show the rest of his class.

Soon the bell rang for lunchtime and Ted and the other children put all the things they'd used away. Once the classroom was tidy, they all went to a large hall, full of



Mummy

chairs and tables, to eat their lunch. Ted had brought a packed lunch in a lunchbox that was blue with a picture of a red car on it. He ate his yummy sandwiches and a lovely crunchy apple and had a long drink from his very own water bottle. When they had finished eating, Ted and his new friends went out into the playground. They had lots of fun running around.



In the afternoon, Ted decided to play outside in the sandpit. He built a large sandcastle with a bucket and spade. Just before home time, Mrs Teddington called the children back to the carpet. She read a story about a dinosaur and his friend who couldn't roar. Before he knew it, it was time for Ted to go home. He collected his bookbag and his lunchbox and ran out to his mummy. "Did you have a good day?" Mummy asked. "Oh yes," said Ted, "can I come to school again tomorrow?" Mummy smiled and laughed and gave Ted a huge cuddle. "I am so glad you have enjoyed your first day at school," she beamed.



## Story sequencing

Ted did lots of things to get ready for school in the morning. Can you remember what he did first? Cut out the pictures below and stick them in the right order to show what Ted did when.

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1

2

3

4



Have a think! What will you need to do in the mornings to get ready for school? Can you practise doing any of these things on your own before you start Reception?

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

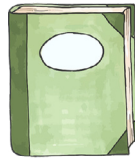
Children will read and hear lots of stories at school and will need to be able to respond to questions about them and even retell the story. Asking questions about stories while you are reading (or afterwards) helps them to develop their concentration and communication skills. The activities on the next few pages are designed to get your little learner thinking about the story and what happened on Ted's first day.

## Ted's first day at school: comprehension activities

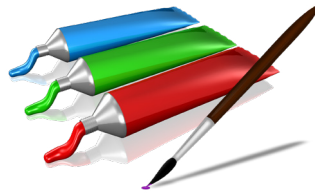
What can you remember about Ted's first day at school?

1. What did Mrs Teddington ask Ted to find when he went into school?  
Draw a circle around the correct answer.

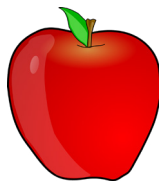
Ted



2. What did Ted choose to do in the morning?



3. Which of these items did Ted have in his lunchbox?



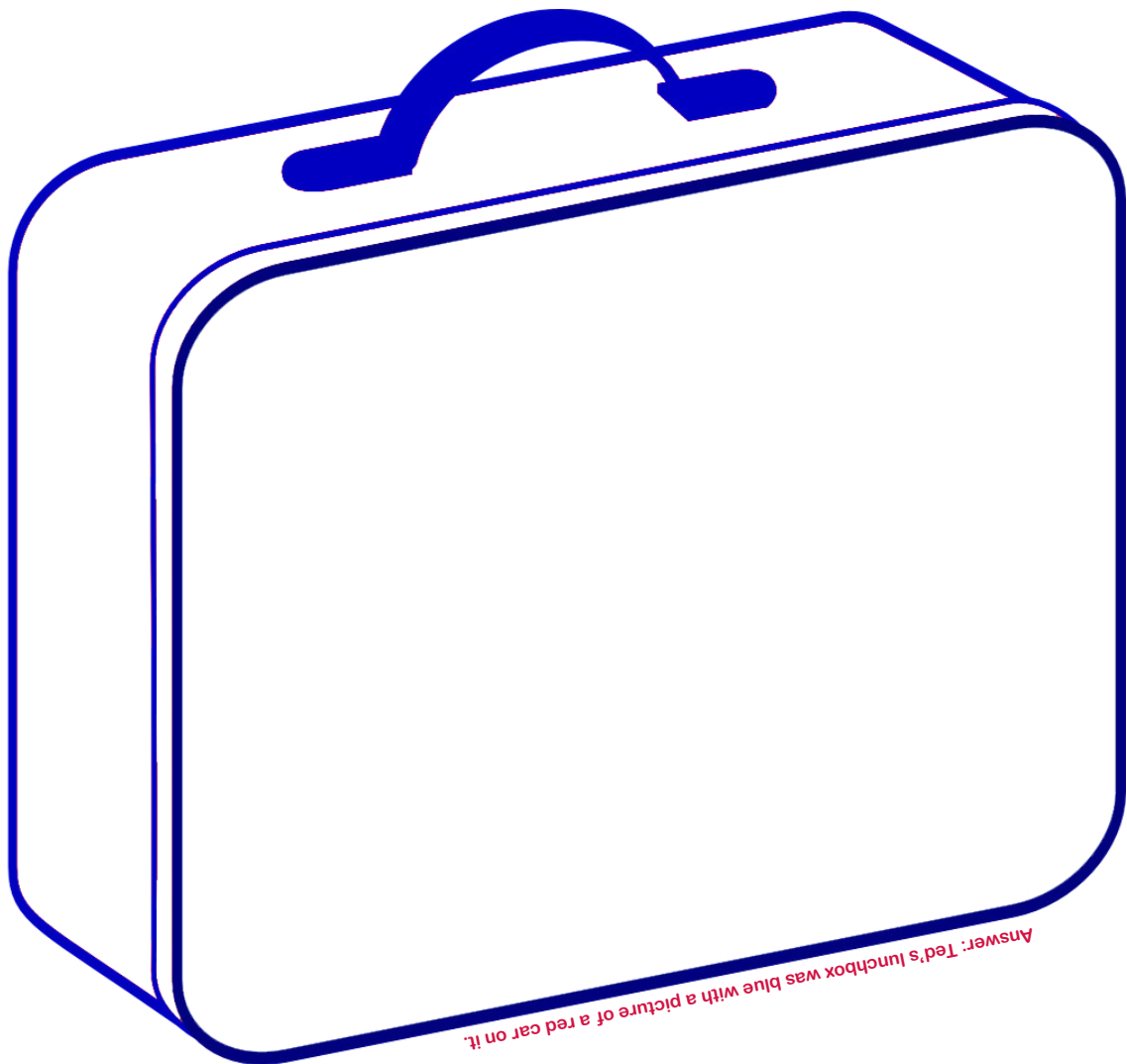
4. At the end of the day, Mrs Teddington read Ted and his new friends a story about an animal and his friend who couldn't roar. What animal was the story about?



Answers: 1. a, 2. b, 3. a, b and d, 4. c



In the story, Ted took his lunchbox to school. Can you remember what it looked like? Draw it on the lunchbox below, then colour it in.



Answer: Ted's lunchbox was blue with a picture of a red car on it.

Will you be having a delicious packed lunch or a yummy school dinner?  
What sort of things would you like to eat at school?

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#### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Drawing and colouring are great ways to develop pencil control. Providing lots of opportunities for your child to use pencils and felt tips will help to refine these skills.

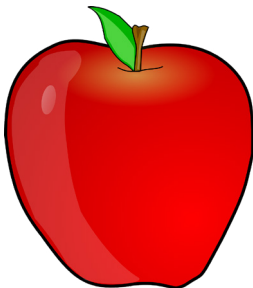
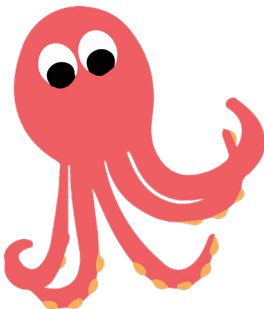
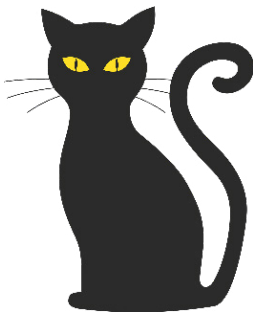
## Curly letters

At school, your teacher will teach you how to read and write. Let's have a first look at how to write the letters of the alphabet!

The letters c, a, d, g, q, o s and e are curly and start with a similar shape.

To write the letters, start at the green dot, follow the letter around to the orange dot and finish at the red one.

Make sure  
your letters  
are sitting  
on the line!

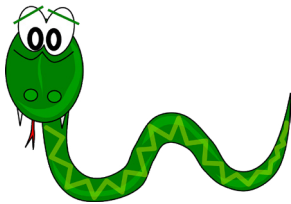


### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

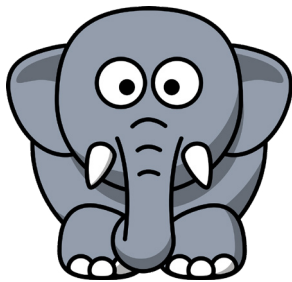
When talking about the letters of the alphabet, be sure to use the letter sound, not the letter's name, as children learn the phonetic sounds of the alphabet's letters first. For example, /a/ is 'a' as in apple not 'ay' as in ate and /s/ is 's' as in sand, not 'es'.



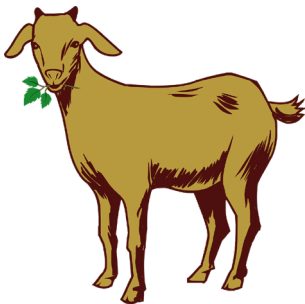
d d d



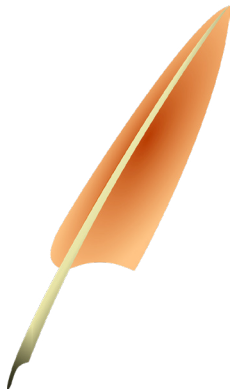
s s s



e e e



g g g



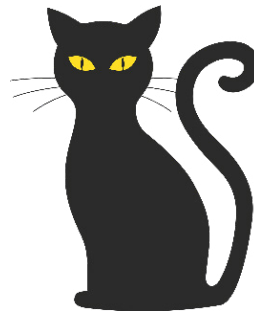
q q q

## Curly letters practice

Some of the letters have been missed out of the words below.  
Can you write the correct letter in the space?



dog



cat

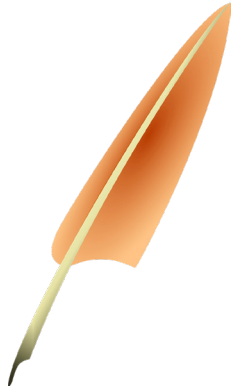


mat



pot





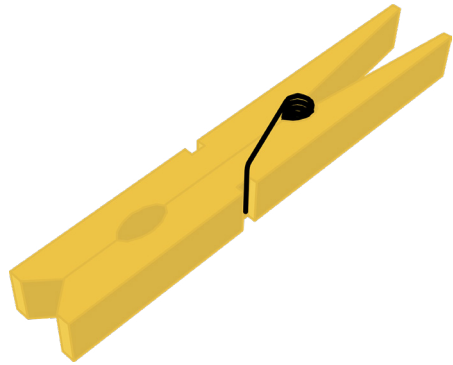
quill



sack



pen



peg

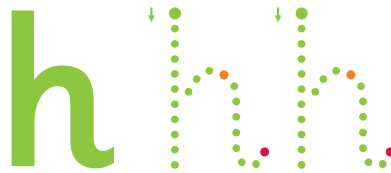
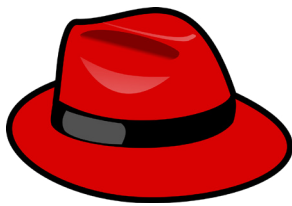
Well done! You have practised your curly letters.  
Now let's look at the bouncy letters.

## Bouncy letters

Bouncy letters start in the air, fall to the ground and bounce up and into a letter shape.

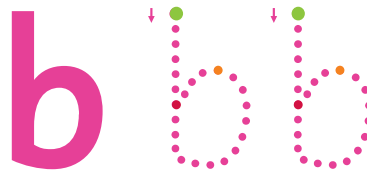


To write the letters, start at the green dot, follow the letter around or down to the orange dot and finish at the red one.



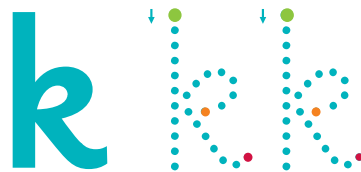
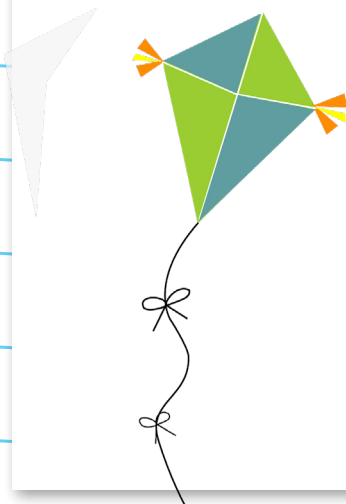
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r r r

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n n n

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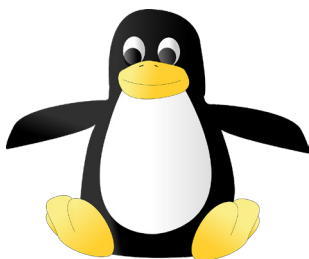


m m m

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This next letter is a bit different as it bounces below the line – have a look and give it a try.



p p p

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## Bouncy letters practice

Oh dear, the bouncy letters have all bounced out of the alphabet!  
Can you write them back into their spaces?

a b c d e f  
g h i j k l  
m n o p q r  
s t u v w  
x y z

v p

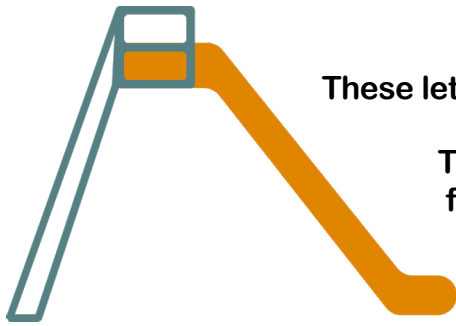
Well done, you have put all the bouncy letters back in their places.  
Now let's look at the slidey letters.



## Slidey letters

These letters all like to start in the air and slide down!

To write them, start at the green dot, follow the letter down to the orange dot and finish at the red one.



Make sure  
your letters  
are sitting  
on the line!



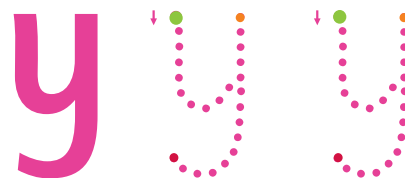
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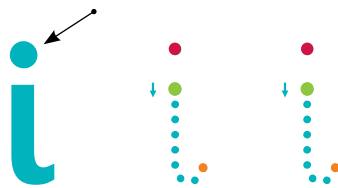
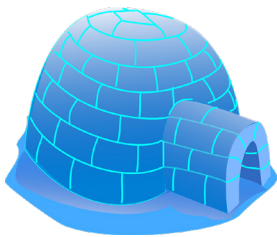
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The next letters are a bit different: you must take your pencil off the paper to finish the letter. Have a look and give it a try!



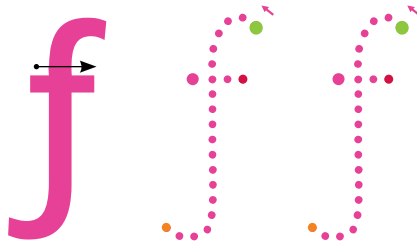
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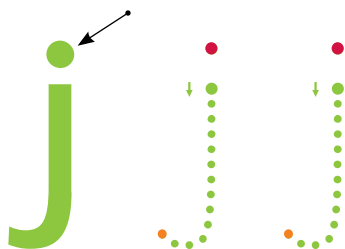
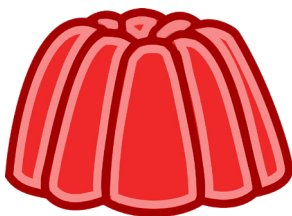
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## Slidey letters practice

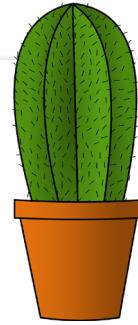
Can you find the slidey letters hiding in the picture below? When you have found them, write them into the box at the bottom of the page.



l	t	j	u	
f	i		y	

## Pointy letters

The last set of letters are all pointy and pokey! To write them, start at the green dot, follow the letter down to the orange dot and finish at the red one.



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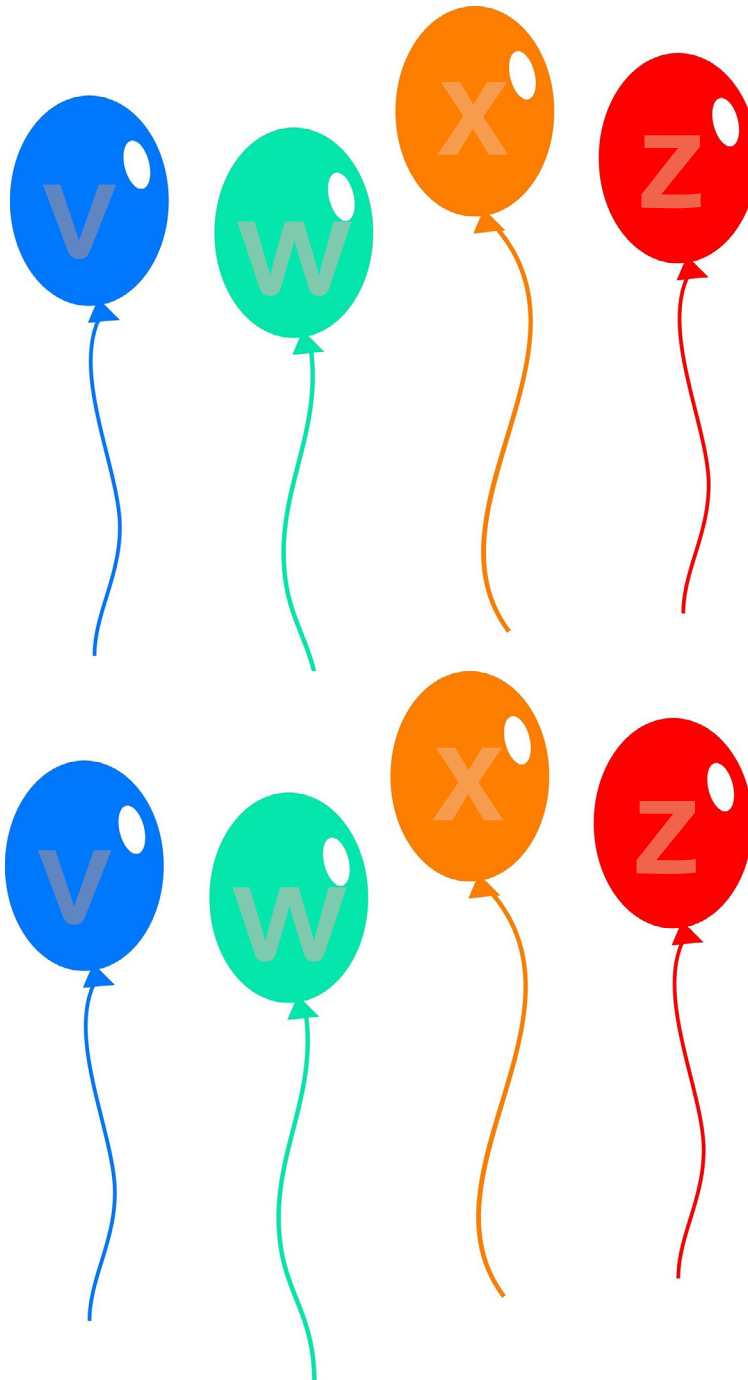
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Make sure  
your letters  
are sitting  
on the line!

## Pointy letters practice

The pointy letters have been trapped inside balloons; they need your help! Trace over the letters in the balloons to help them to escape.

Remember, these letters don't like to be curvy or curly – make them as sharp and pointy as you can or they might not pop the balloons!



Wow! You are a superstar! Take a look back at how many different letters you have learnt to write.



## Following instructions

Cut out the instruction cards below and on the next page (they will last longer if they are printed on card or laminated) and shuffle them.

Each card contains a **simple instruction** followed by a number of seconds.

Ask your child to stand facing you so that they can see your face. Turn over the top card and read it aloud to your child. Wait the suggested number of seconds and then say 'go'. Remind your little learner that they shouldn't carry out the instruction until you say 'go'. When your child can carry out one instruction confidently, try giving them two instructions.

Some blank cards have been included so that you can make up a few fun instructions of your own.

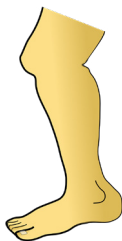
Clap your hands 5 times.



Turn around and touch the ground.



Hop on one leg 6 times.



Find your favourite teddy / toy.



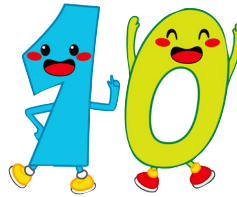
### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Listening carefully and being able to follow instructions accurately is a key skill for school success. During this activity remember to speak clearly and slowly, giving one instruction at a time to start with. Another fun way to develop your child's ability to listen to and follow instructions is to play games like 'Simon says' and 'I spy'.

Sing your favourite song.



Count to 10.



Jump up and down on the spot 7 times.



Find an object that is red.

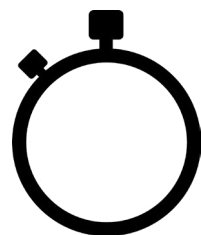
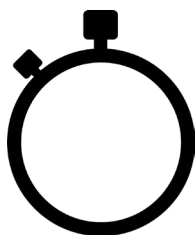
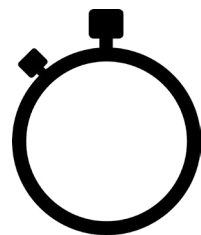
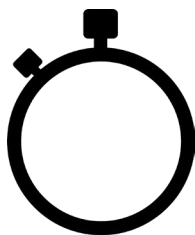


Tap your hands on your shoulders.



Say your name, then sit down.

"AMY"  
"GEORGE"  
"GRACE"



## Set off on a name hunt

On Ted's first day at school, he was asked to find his name and post it into a box. At school, you will need to be able to recognise your name from lots of other names. Play the name game below to help you practise.

### You will need:

- Sticky notes
- Marker pens

### Instructions

- 1) To start, choose four different names – these could be mum, dad, sibling or pet and your child's name. (You can increase the number of names as your child becomes more confident.)
- 2) Stick the notes around the house without your child seeing (choose easy-to-see places to start with).
- 3) Once ready, show your child a copy of their name and ask them to find it. If your child struggles, they could take a copy of their name with them to check and match.



Sarah

Jamie

Amelia

Tom

Iman

Wow! You are becoming a name detective!

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

When children become more confident at recognising their name, add to the excitement and increase the challenge by timing them, racing them (hide each other's names), hiding more copies of their name and including names very similar to your child's. Having your child's name written around the house and home environment will also really help with this skill. Other great ways to improve name recognition are writing your child's name on their belongings or on pictures they have drawn or in magnetic letters on the fridge.

## Name building

Now that you can recognise your name, it's time to start learning how to spell it!

a b c d e f g h i j  
k l m n o p q r s  
t u v w x y z

This is a great time to practise writing your letters. Use the alphabet above to remind you, or ask your grown-up to help you write the letters of your name into the boxes below. Make sure you only write one letter in each box, for example:

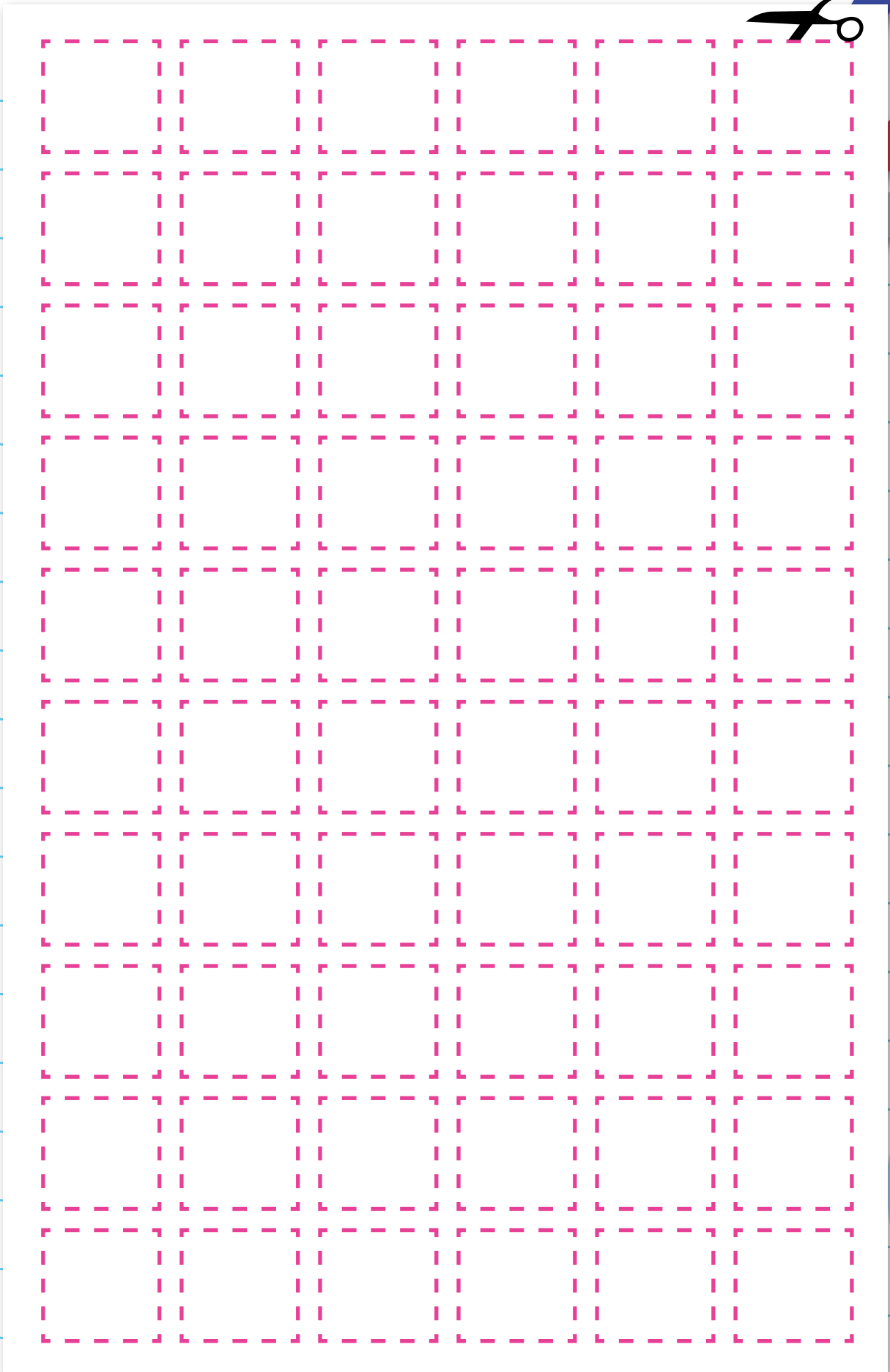
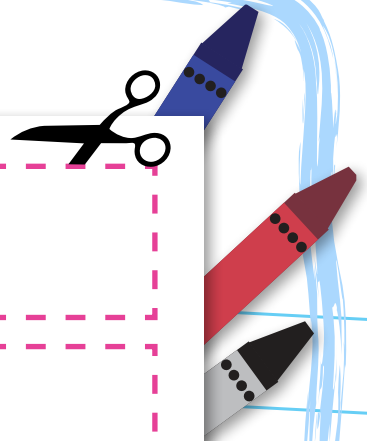
o l i v e r

Once you have written the letters into the boxes, carefully cut them out along the dotted lines. Jumble the letters up and see if you can remember which order they go in.

When you are sure that you have the letters in the right order, stick them on to a piece of paper. You could decorate your name and make it into a poster for your bedroom!

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

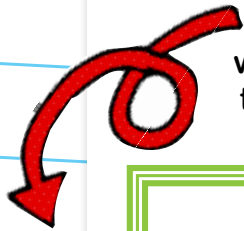
There are lots of other ways to help your child practise name building. Write the letters onto stickers on building blocks or pegs, make some letter cards and peg them on a line in the correct order or practise using foam letters at bath time. Remember to start with their first name and add in their surname once they are confident.





## Name practice

At school, you will need to write your name on to everything you do, so that your teacher knows whose wonderful work it is.



Practise writing your name below. When you are confident, write it on the certificate on the next page. Ask your grown-up to write your name on the top line for you to look at and copy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your turn to practise:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Wow, you are a name-writing superstar!  
Now you can write your name on the certificate on the next page.

I can  
write my  
name!

WOW!

---

can write their name  
all by themselves!



What are you most looking forward to about starting school?

Draw a picture in the space below and be sure to write your name at the bottom.

When I start school, I am looking forward to....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding the world activities

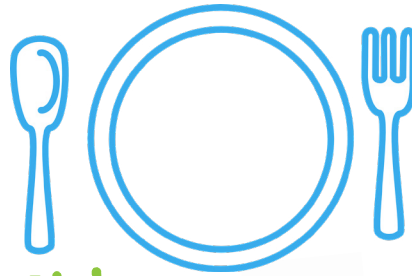
At school, you will learn about the world and how things work. The following activities will help you think about and understand the world around you – and they are also lots of fun!

### All about me

When you get to school, your teacher and new friends will want to get to know you. Complete the 'All about me' activity below (you may need a grown-up to help you read and write or draw in the answers).

☆ All about **ME** ☆

my name is



I am

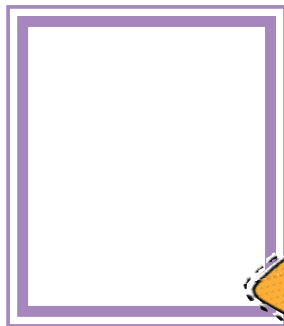


years old.



my favourite colour crayon

my  
favourite  
food is



This is  
me



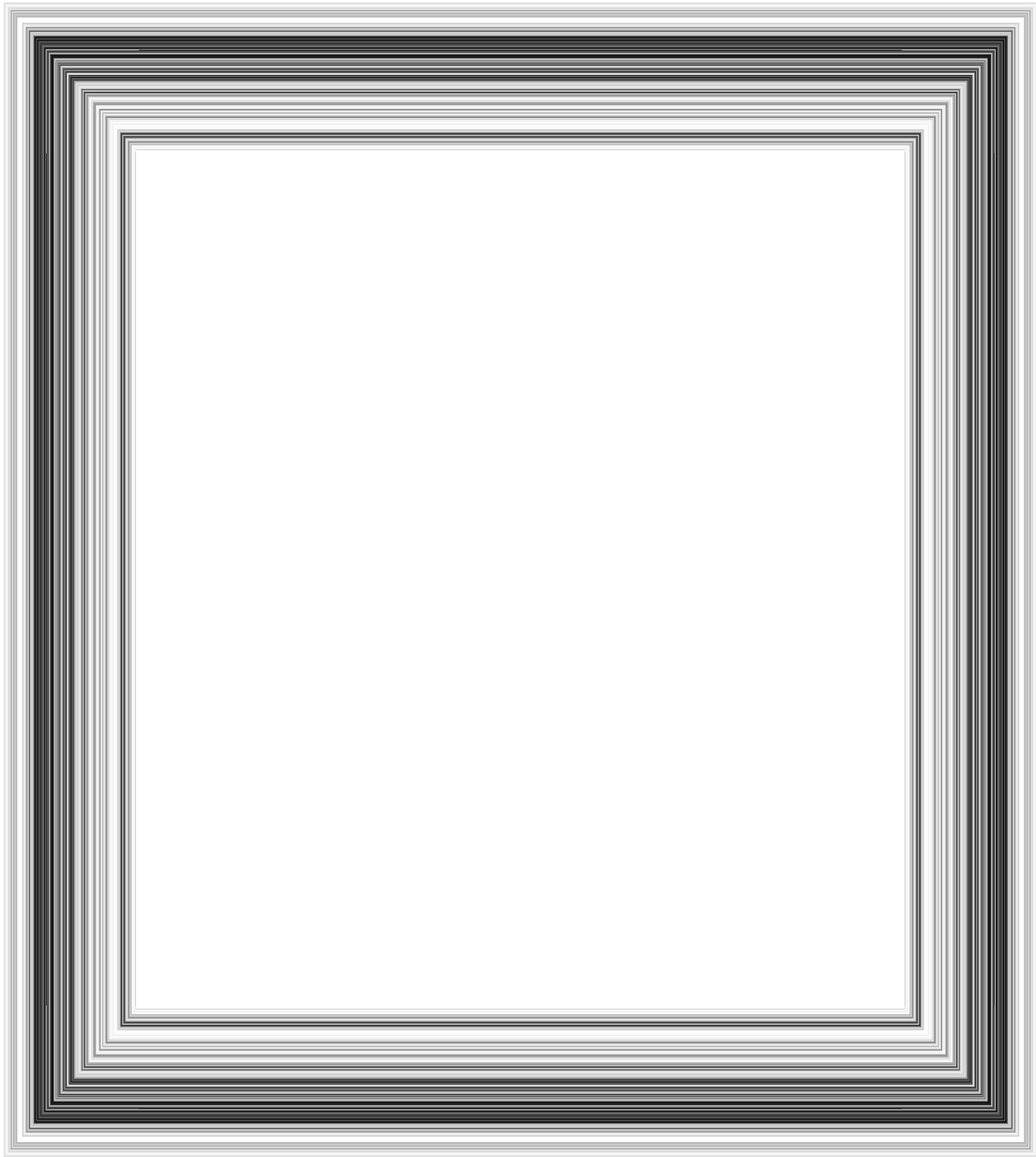
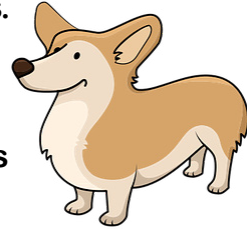
I enjoy

What else might people want to know about you?  
Talk with your grown-up about what makes you special.

## My family

Your family are the people around you who love you. This might include parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and many, many more – even pets! All families are different. At school, you will meet lots of new people from many different families.

Have a chat about your family with your grown-up. Use the space below to draw pictures of them. Why are they special to you? Make their day by sharing your thoughts and telling them why you think they are so special!



### CHALLENGE!

Can you try writing the names of some of your family members?

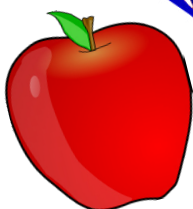
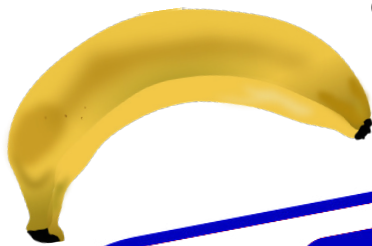


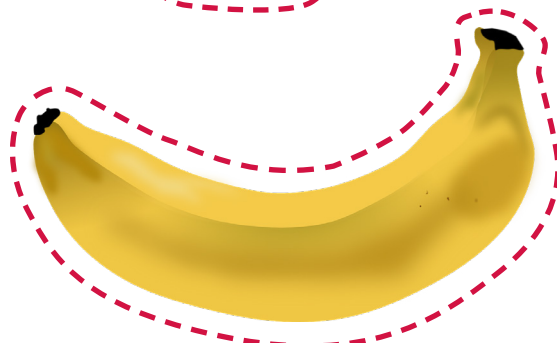
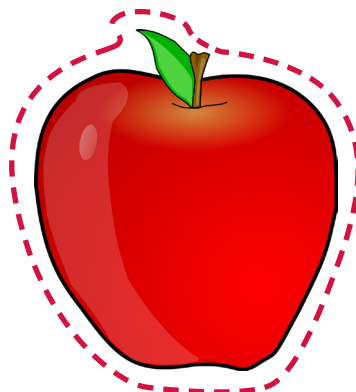
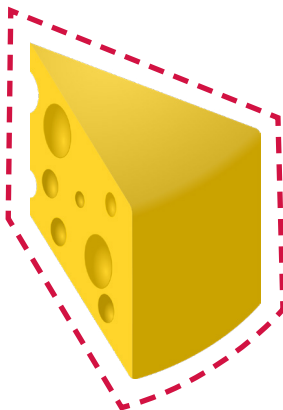
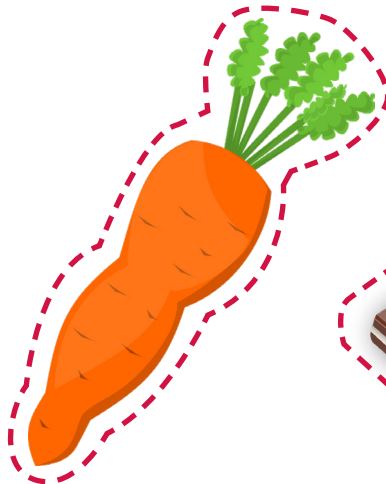
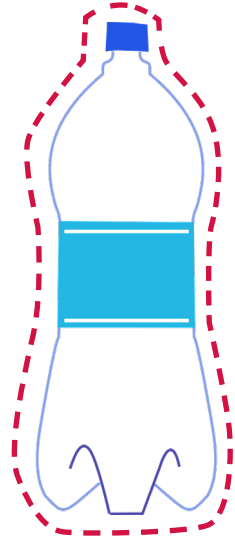
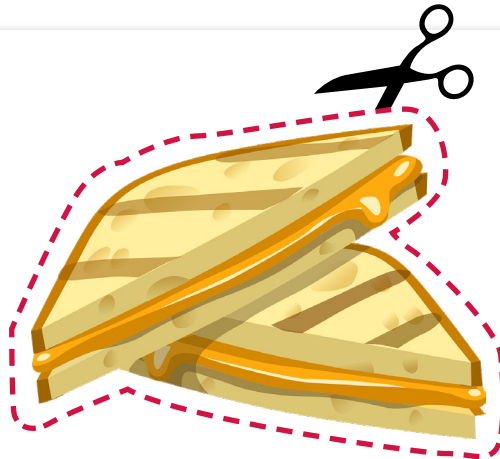
## Enjoying a healthy lunch

Eating the right balance of foods is important to keep your body healthy. At school, you will need to make sure that you have a yummy lunch to give you the energy to learn and play.

On the next page, choose and cut out some healthy items that you could take to school in a lunchbox.

Don't worry if you aren't having a packed lunch at school. If you are having school dinners, you'll have lots of delicious, healthy food to choose from. Your teachers might even have a school dinner with you sometimes!







## Clothes for Ted's holiday

When you start school, you will soon realise that you also get to enjoy school holidays! Ted has already planned his half term and summer holidays.

a) At half term, Ted is going skiing in the snowy mountains where it can get very cold. Help him to choose the right clothes for his holiday by ticking or drawing a circle around the things he should pack.



b) In the summer holidays, Ted is going somewhere hot and sunny. Which clothes should he pack for this holiday?



c) Does Ted need to pack the same clothes for both holidays? Circle the correct answer below.

YES

NO

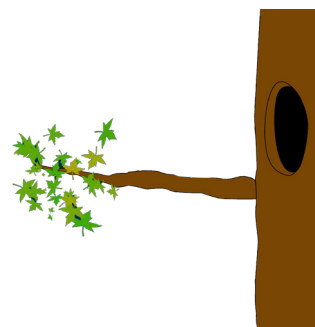
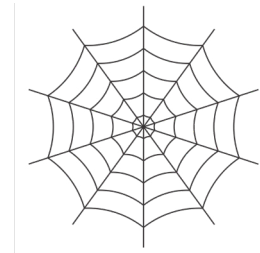
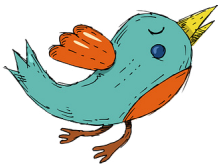
### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Discuss different types of clothes with your little learner. Ask them why they have chosen certain clothes and not others. Can they explain that in cold weather it is important to 'wrap up' to keep warm and in hot weather it is important to stay cool?

## Animals and their homes

In Reception class you might learn about animals, the similarities they share and how they are different.

The animals have all got muddled up. Can you help them to find their homes by drawing a line from each creature to its home?



Wow, well done! Now draw a picture of you in your home!



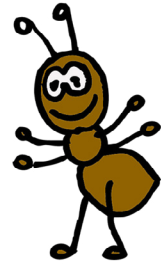


## Going on a bug hunt

Lots of animals and creatures live all around you.  
Why don't we find some?

Go and hunt outside to see what amazing creatures you can find. You can do your bug hunt in a garden or at the park.  
You can find these amazing creatures almost anywhere.

Use this checklist and mark off any critters that you can find.  
How many did you spot?



spider ☐

ladybird ☐

worm ☐

beetle ☐

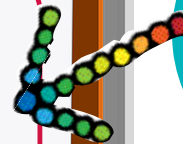
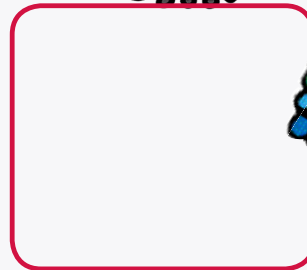
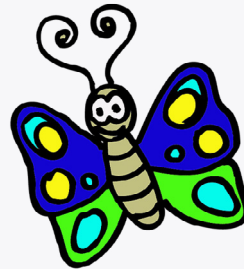
ant ☐

butterfly ☐

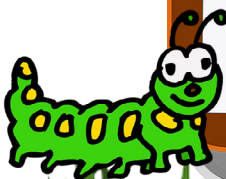
caterpillar ☐

bee ☐

snail ☐



Did you find any other creatures?  
Draw them here!





## Make a bug hotel

It is important to help look after the small creatures you can find.  
Why not make a simple bug hotel for them to live in?

### You will need:

- An empty weatherproof container (not cardboard), for example a plastic bottle, a plastic tube like a drain pipe or an empty plant pot
- String
- Tape
- Lots of sticks, leaves, stones, pinecones and other natural objects



### Instructions

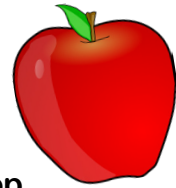
- 1) If you are using a bottle, ask an adult to cut the top and bottom off so that you have a hollow tube.
- 2) Fill your container with all the things you have collected! Make sure to really pack it in tight or all your natural materials might fall out. Ask your grown-up to help you if you need to.
- 3) If you want to hang your bug hotel up, tie the string around it and secure it with some tape.
- 4) Either hang your bug hotel on a tree branch or place it on the ground amongst some plants and flowers.
- 5) Leave the bug hotel for a few days and wait for the bugs to check in!
- 6) When you spot a bug using your hotel, take a photograph or draw a picture and see if you can find out what type of creature it is.



## Sink or float?

In your Reception classroom, you might have a water play table which is great for science investigations.

Have you ever noticed that when you put some things in water they stay on top but others don't? When something stays on top of the water, it floats; when it doesn't, we say it sinks.



### You will need:

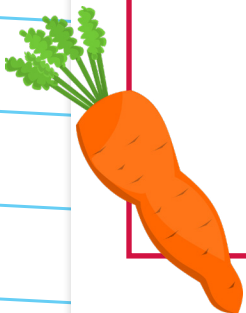
- A large tub of water – you could even use the bathtub!
- A collection of objects to test (nothing electrical – please don't test your grown-up's phone or the TV remote!)

### Instructions

- 1) Gather a selection of objects from around your home. Good ideas include apples or other fruit, stones, balls, plastic toys, spoons, an empty bottle, a full bottle, plastic packaging, a toy boat.
- 2) Make predictions. Which objects do you think will sink and which do you think will float?
- 3) Test each object in your tub.
- 4) Draw the objects you tested into the table below to show whether they sank or floated.



Sink	Float



**Discuss with your grown-up:** Were any of your predictions correct? Did any of the objects surprise you?

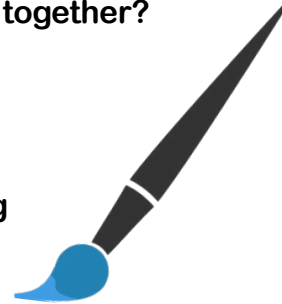
## Colour mixing

At school you will get lots of opportunities to explore different colours through painting, drawing and experimenting.

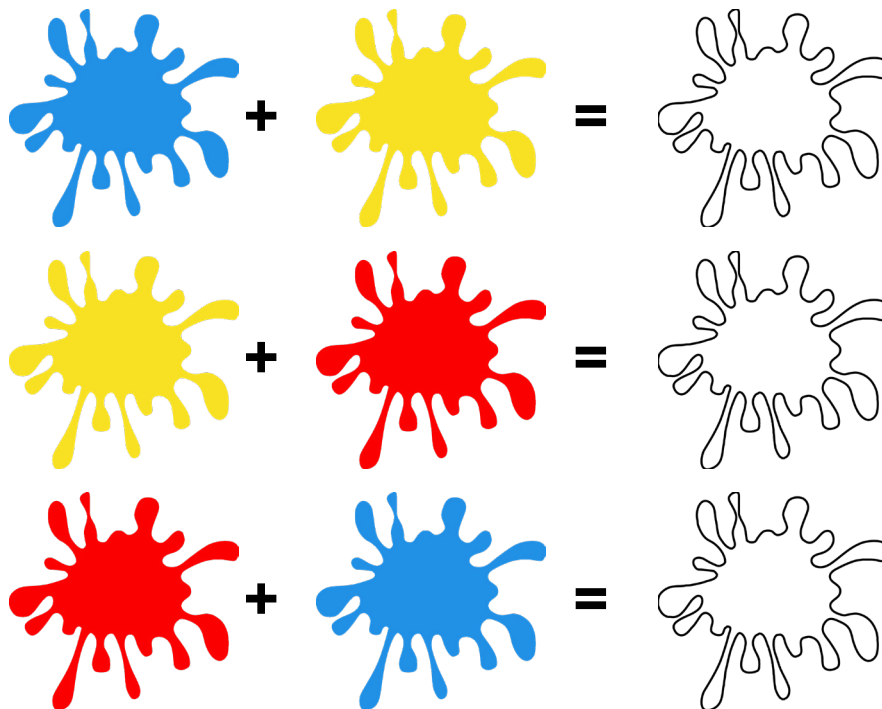
Have a look at the things around you. How many different colours can you see? Did you know that some colours can be made by mixing two or more different colours together?

### You will need:

- Poster paints – red, blue, yellow and white
- Paint pots or white paper plates for colour mixing
- Paper • Paintbrushes • Water



Use your paints to mix up the colours shown below. What colours did you make? Record your findings by painting the empty paint splat with the colours that you make. Don't forget to wash your paintbrush after each mix!



Now try some of your own using the colours you have mixed. Use a piece of paper to record your findings. What is your favourite colour?

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Encourage your little learner to experiment with the paints. Discuss the activity with them – can they predict what colour they will make? Challenge them to make a certain colour. Talk about which colours they can see around them. Have they made all of them?

## Making playdough

No classroom is complete without playdough! Playing with playdough is so much fun – it helps you be creative and is a good way to strengthen your little fingers. Making your own playdough at home is quicker and easier than you might think and is a great opportunity to see how materials can change.

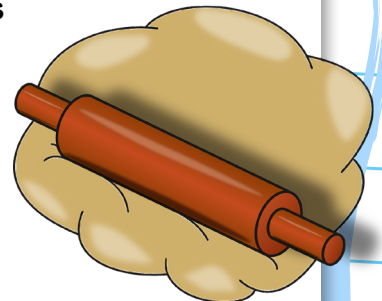
### You will need:

- 2 mixing bowls
- Wooden spoon or spatula
- 2 tablespoons of table salt
- 8 tablespoons of plain flour plus a sprinkle for dusting
- 60ml of warm water
- Food colouring (you could even mix up your favourite colour!)
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- Rolling pin
- Dough cutters



### Instructions:

- 1) Mix the salt and the flour together in a bowl.
- 2) In a separate bowl, mix the oil, water and a few drops of colouring (look at how the oil and water behave).
- 3) Slowly add the coloured water and oil to the salt and flour while mixing.
- 4) Sprinkle a dusting of flour onto a hard surface.
- 5) Tip out the mixture onto the floured surface.
- 6) Knead the mixture together for a few minutes until you have a small ball of playdough. How have the ingredients changed? What does the mixture feel like now?
- 7) Play with your very own, home-made playdough using a rolling pin and cutters.
- 8) Keep it fresh by wrapping it tightly in cling film or in a sandwich bag (don't forget to squeeze out all the air).



### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

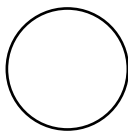
Discuss the playdough-making process with your little learner. Talk about the ingredients and how they look and feel. How do the ingredients change as you mix them together? Ask your child to help you to count and measure the ingredients and read the instructions together to see if they can follow them.

## Working with shapes and numbers

In Reception class, you will learn about lots of different shapes. Some shapes are flat (2D shapes) and some are fat (3D shapes).

The next few activities will help you to learn some 2D and 3D shapes' names and what they look like.

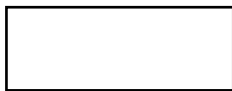
Use the key to help you to colour the picture below.



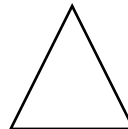
= Green



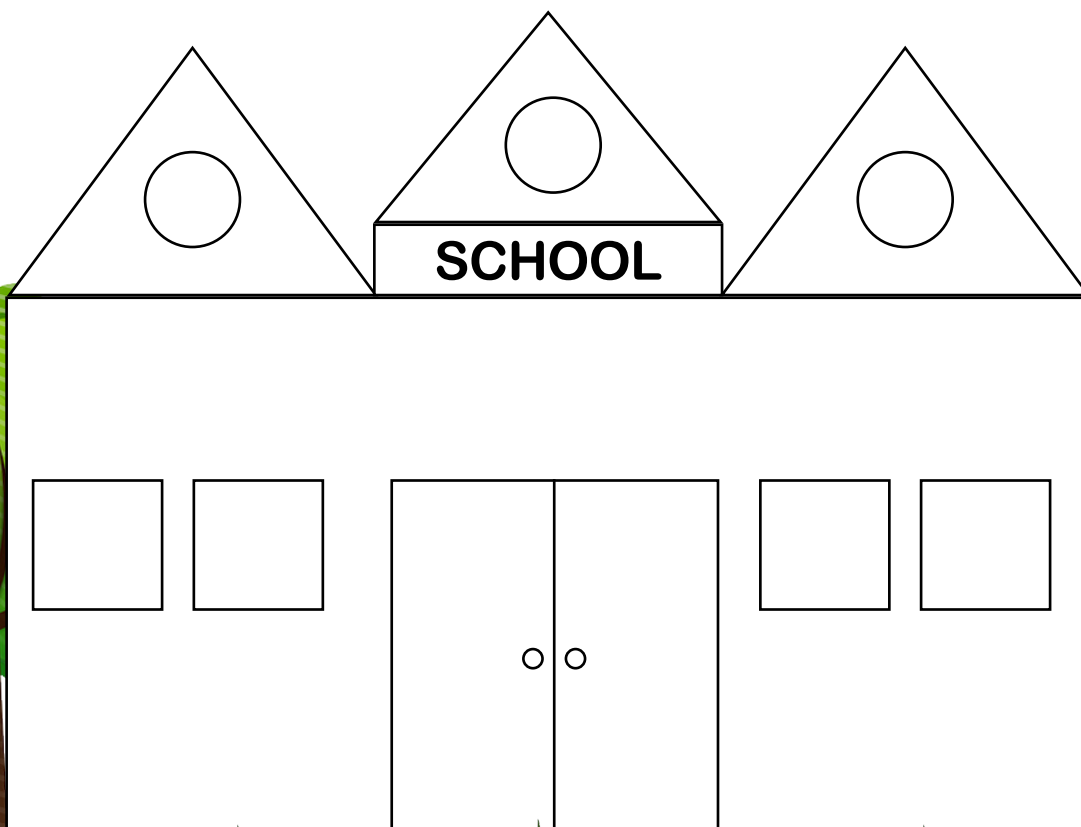
= Red



= Blue



= Yellow



Now go on a shape hunt. What shapes can you find around your home?  
Can you spot any shapes that aren't in this picture?

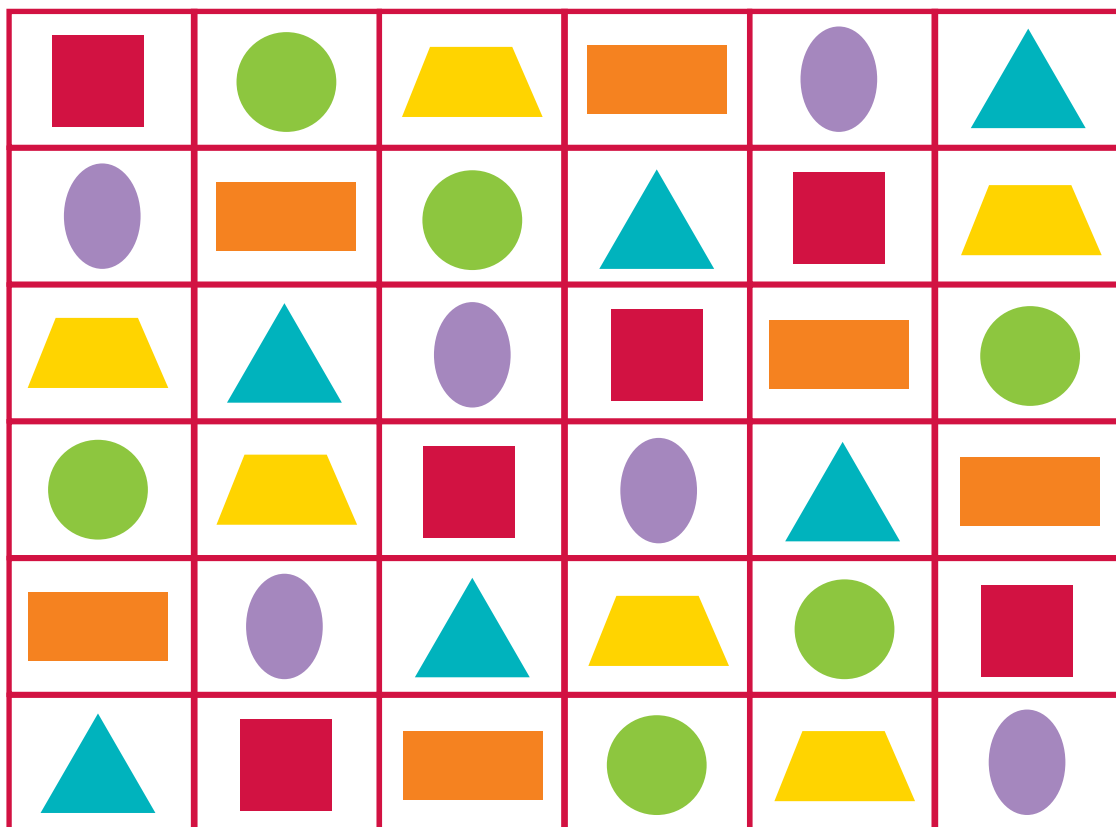


## Shape Six in a Row

Playing games is a lot of fun and it helps you to practise the skills you have learnt. You can play this game with a grown-up or with a friend.

### How to play

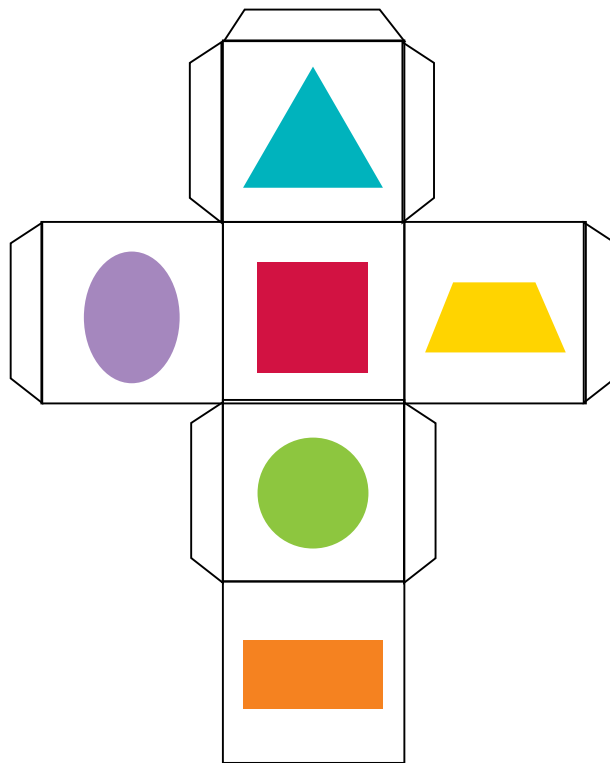
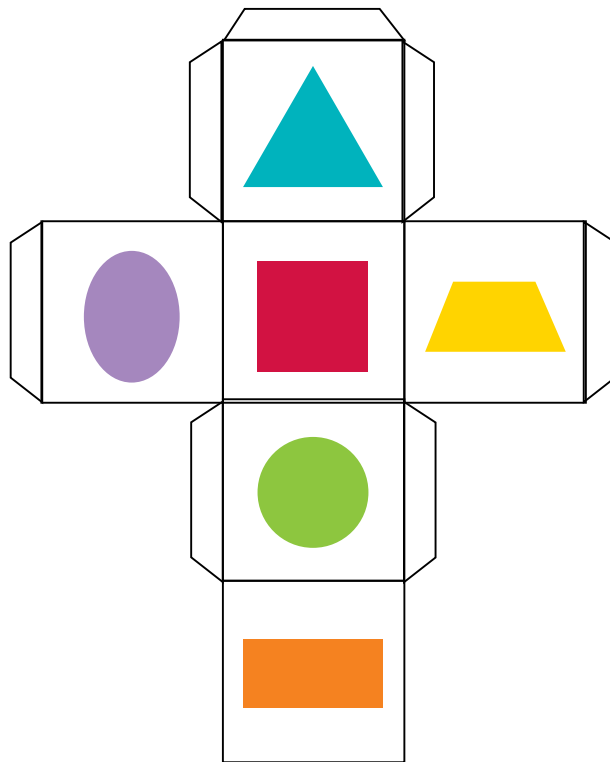
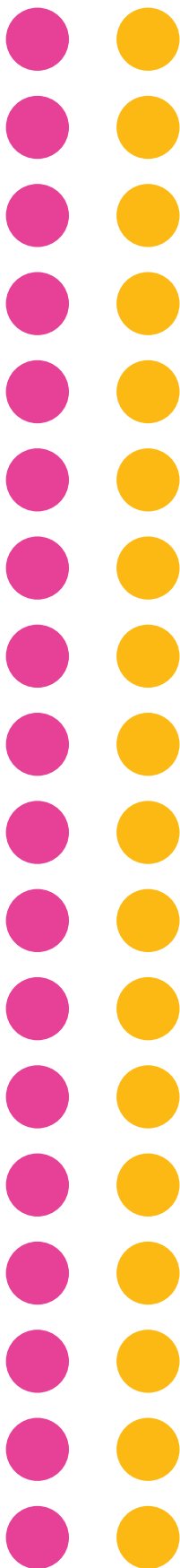
- 1) Cut out the coloured counters and the dice on the following page.
- 2) Fold and stick the dice to make cubes.
- 3) Choose which colour counters you want to play with.
- 4) Take it in turns to roll the dice.
- 5) Place one of your counters on top of the shape you roll (if all of the shapes rolled are covered you cannot put a counter down).
- 6) The first player to get 6 counters in a row (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) is the winner.



### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Try to use the correct names for the shapes (square, circle, trapezium, rectangle, oval, triangle) when playing the game with your child. Talk about the shapes' number of sides and corners and whether a shape's edges are made up of straight lines or curved lines.



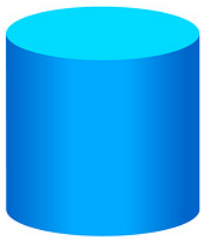


## 3D shape hunt

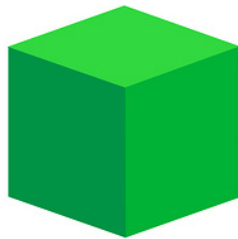
3D shapes are fat shapes that you can hold. You might have some building blocks at home – these are 3D shapes.

Have a look at the shapes below.

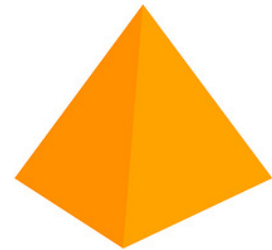
Can you spot any of these shapes around your home or neighbourhood? When you have found each shape, be sure to tick the box to show that you have seen it.



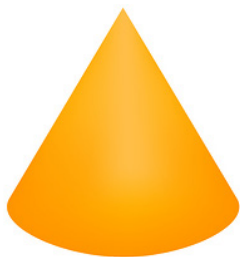
cyclinder



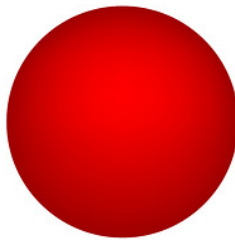
cube



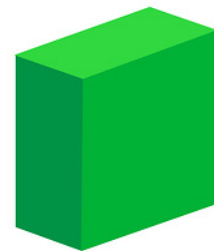
pyramid



cone



sphere



cuboid

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

If possible, help your little learner to find 3D shapes that they can hold and explore as this will help them to understand that they are different from 2D shapes. Talk about the shapes that can be seen within each 3D shape, such as the circles at the end of a cylinder and the square faces of a cube.

## Shape-repeating patterns

The world is full of patterns, from the stripes on a school tie to the spots on a ladybird. When you start school, you will notice lots of patterns in your classroom and maybe even on your uniform.

Take a look at the repeating patterns below. Circle the shape that will come next in the pattern.



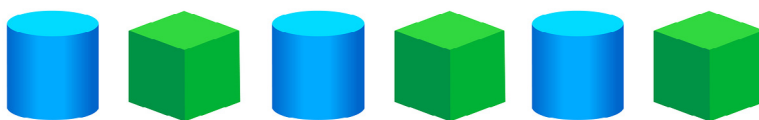
What comes next?



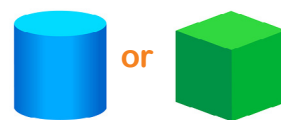
What comes next?



What comes next?



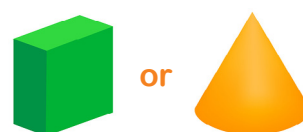
What comes next?



What comes next?



What comes next?

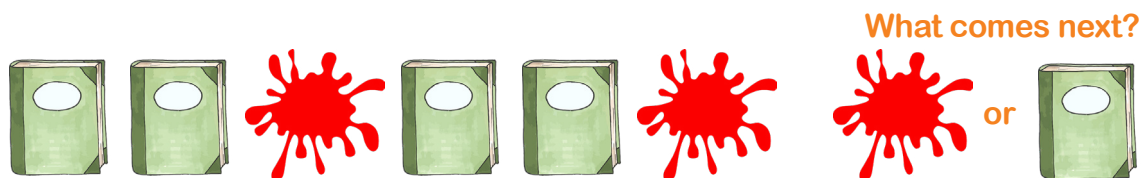
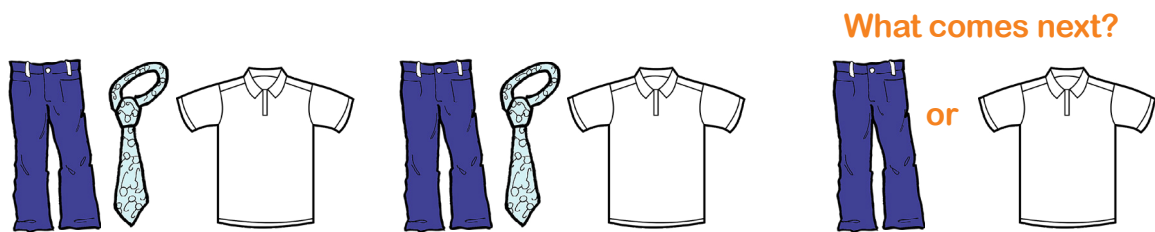
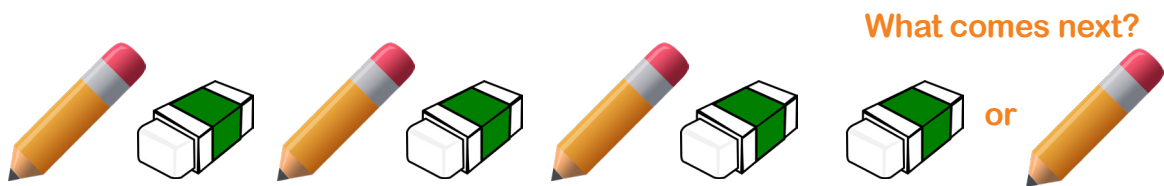


Well done! Now try the patterns on the next activity.

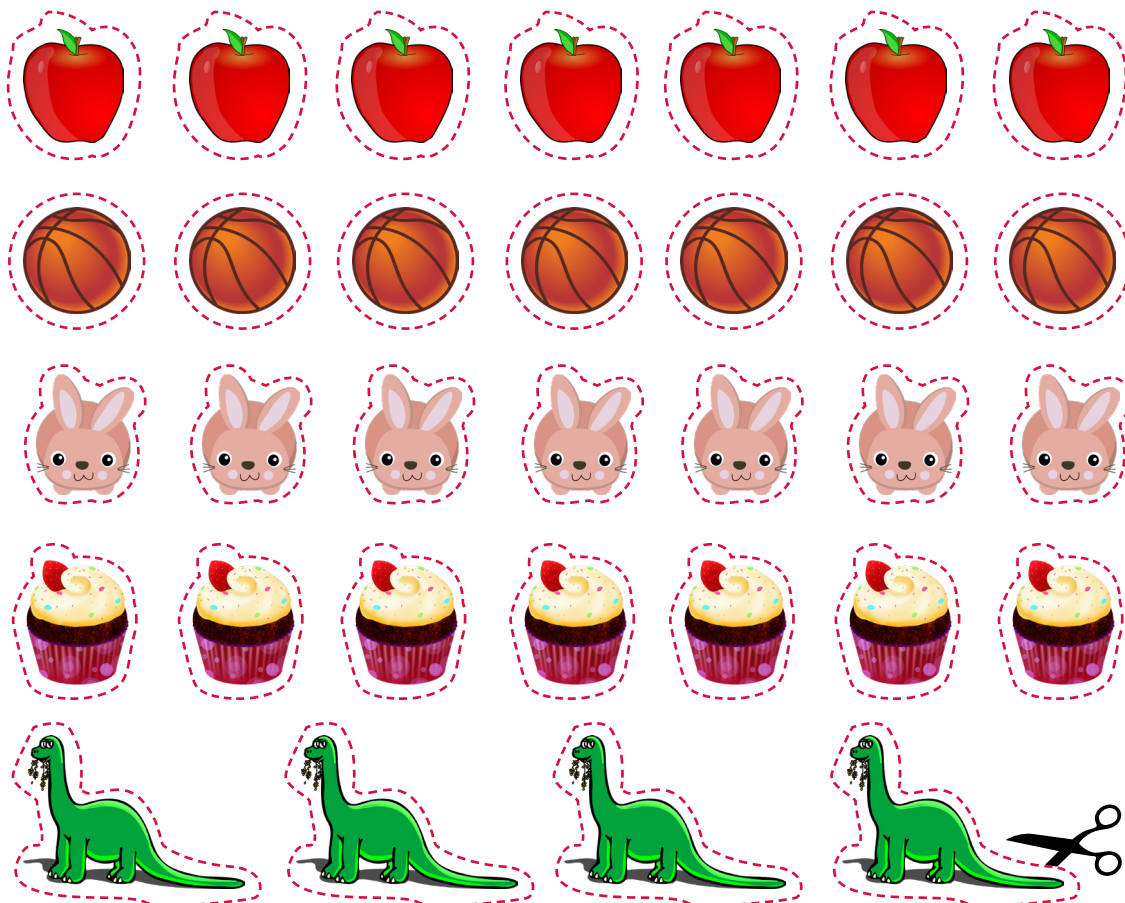
## School patterns

When you start school you'll use lots of new equipment and wear school uniform every day. Are you looking forward to it?  
What items do you think you'll see in your new classroom?

Take a look at the repeating patterns below. Can you spot what will come next in the pattern? Circle it!



Excellent, well done! Now try cutting out the pictures on the next page to make your own repeating pattern.



Stick your patterns in this box.

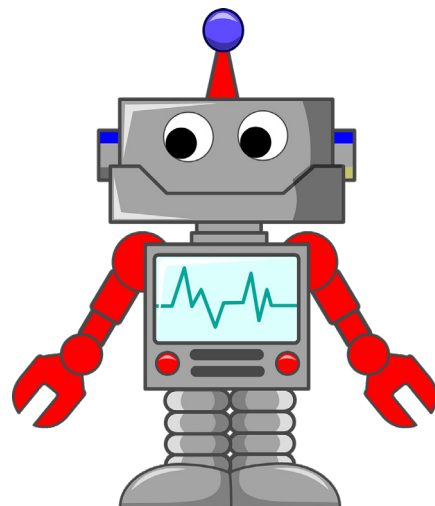
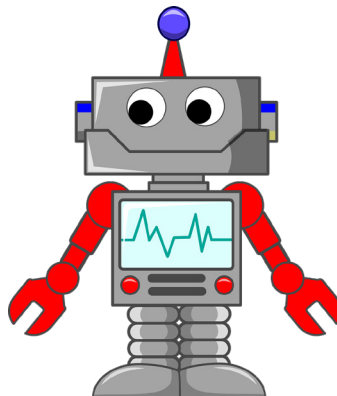
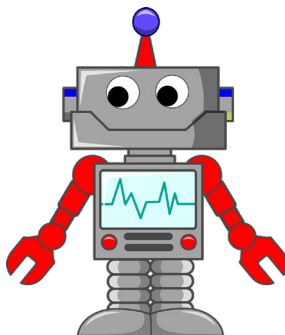
A large empty rectangular box with a red border, intended for students to stick their cutout patterns.

## Ordering toys according to size

In mathematics, it is important to use the right words when describing and comparing objects or groups of objects. These words include biggest, smallest, in between, tallest, shortest, more, fewer, most and least. Try these activities and games and see how much you already know.

Ted is trying to put his toys in order from smallest to largest, but he has got into a bit of a muddle. Can you help him?

Cut out the toys below and stick them on the next page in order, from smallest to largest. Perhaps you could also try putting your own toys into size order!





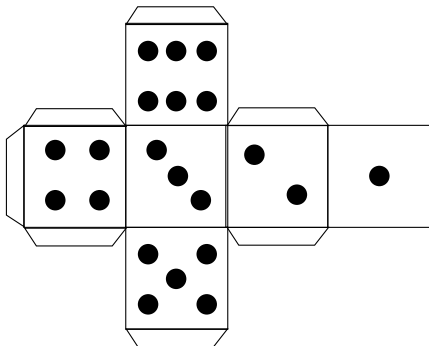
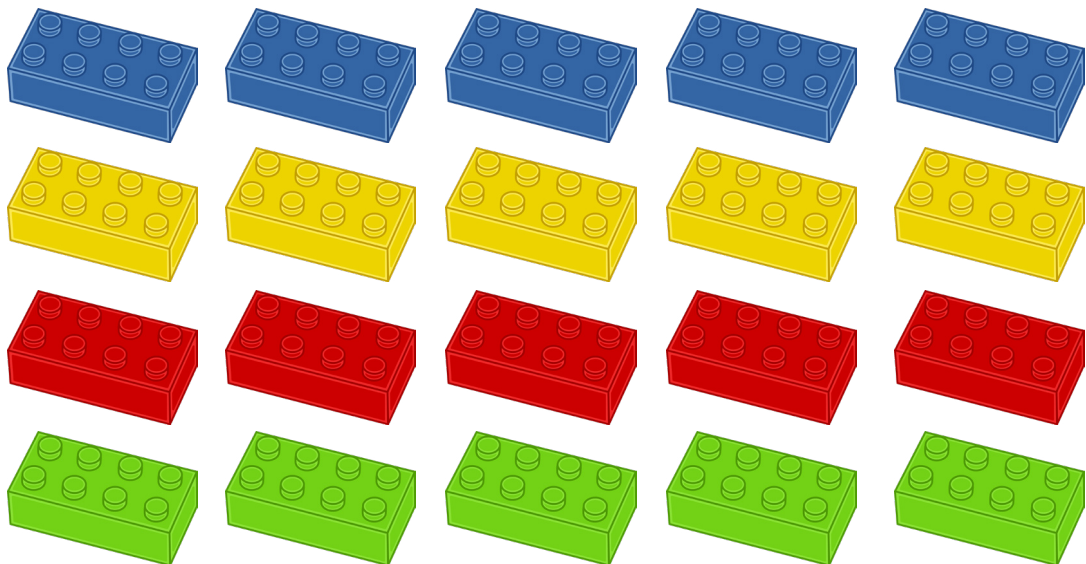
Order toys according to size in this box.

## Tallest tower board game

Can you build the tallest tower? Play the game and build your tower – the player with the tallest tower at the end is the winner.

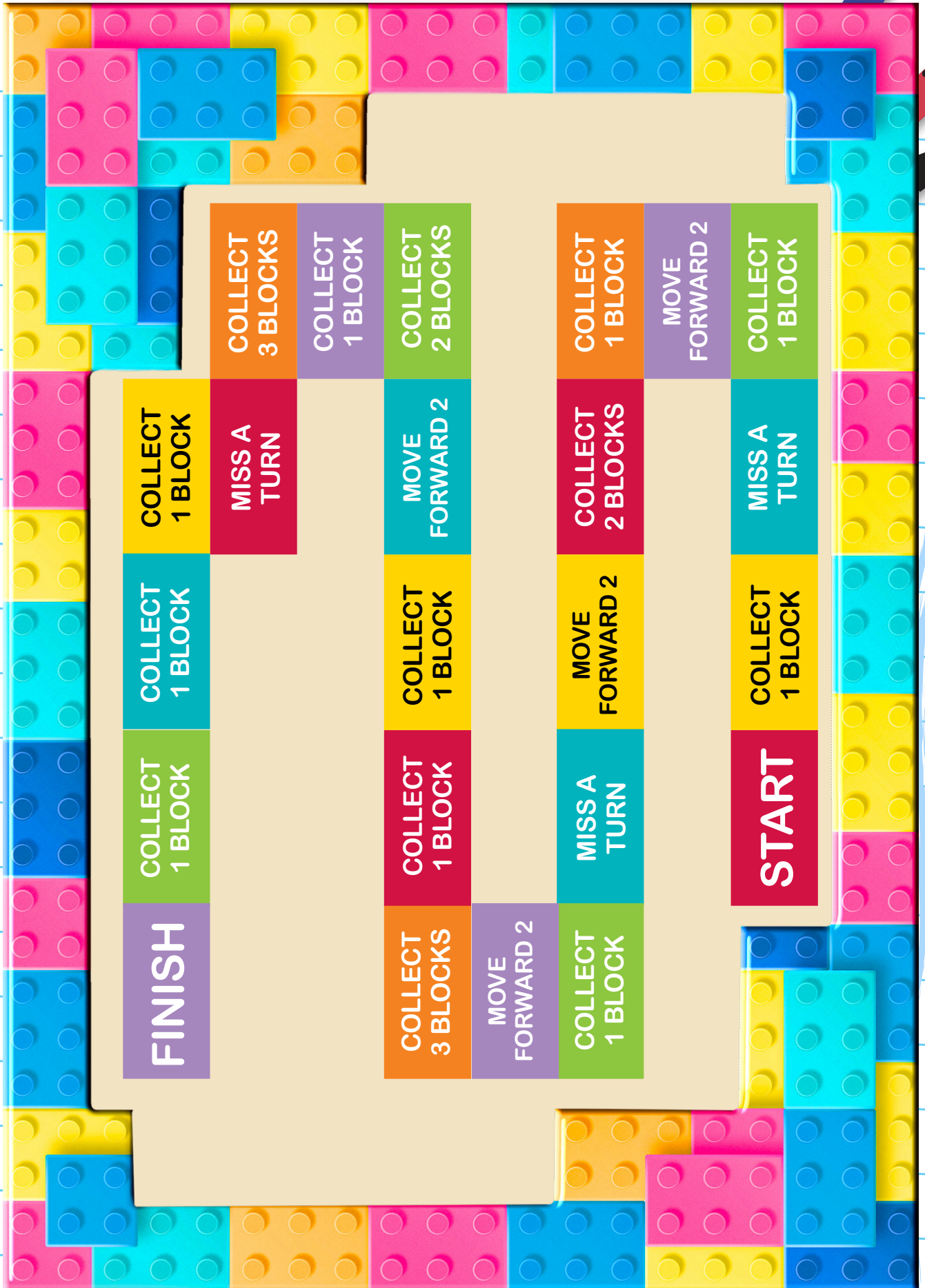
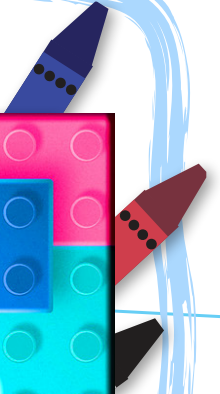
### How to play:

- 1) Gather your building blocks or cut out the ones below.
- 2) Ask your grown-up to help you cut out the characters / die and make the die (or you can use one of your own). You could also use real blocks!
- 3) Choose your playing character.
- 4) The youngest player rolls first. Move your character the number of spaces shown on the die.
- 5) Either collect the given number of blocks on the square or follow the square's instructions.
- 6) When all players have reached the finish line, the person with the tallest tower of blocks is the winner.



### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Be sure to use the language of tall, short, more, less, tallest and shortest as you play. This will help your little learner to recognise the correct terminology when they start school.



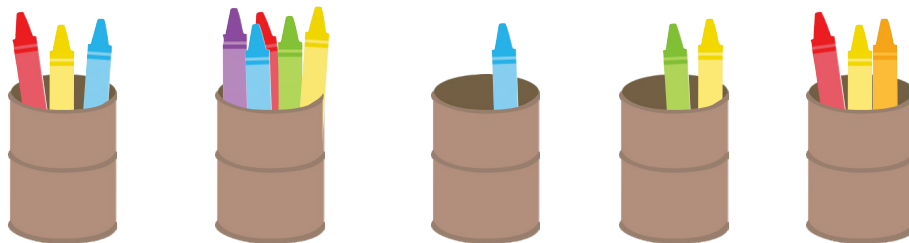
## Most and fewest

Ted has been tidying up after playing in his new classroom. He has put all the toys into their toy boxes. Take a look at the questions below.

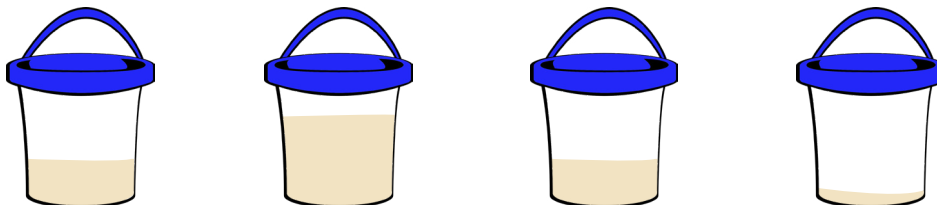
1. Which toy box do you think has the most toys in it? Can you draw a circle around it?



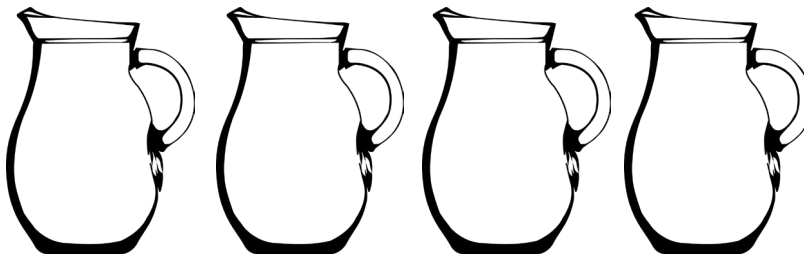
2. Which pot do you think contains the fewest crayons? Can you draw a circle around it?



3. Which two buckets have the same amount of sand in them? Can you circle them both?



4. The water jugs below are all empty. Can you draw different amounts of water in them?



a. Which jug have you drawn the most water in?

b. Which of your jugs has the least amount of water in?

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

Ask your child to decide on their answers by looking at the quantities and estimating rather than counting. Your little learner can always check their answer afterwards if they want to.



## Recognising numbers to 10

By the end of Reception, you will be a numbers expert and will be able to recognise lots of different numbers. To start with you will learn to recognise the numbers to 10. Would you like to give it a try now?

The numbers zero to ten look like this. Do you recognise any of them?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Look at the picture below. Can you find the hidden numbers?  
When you find them, put a circle around them. If you are struggling or just want a bit of help you can always ask a grown-up to help you.



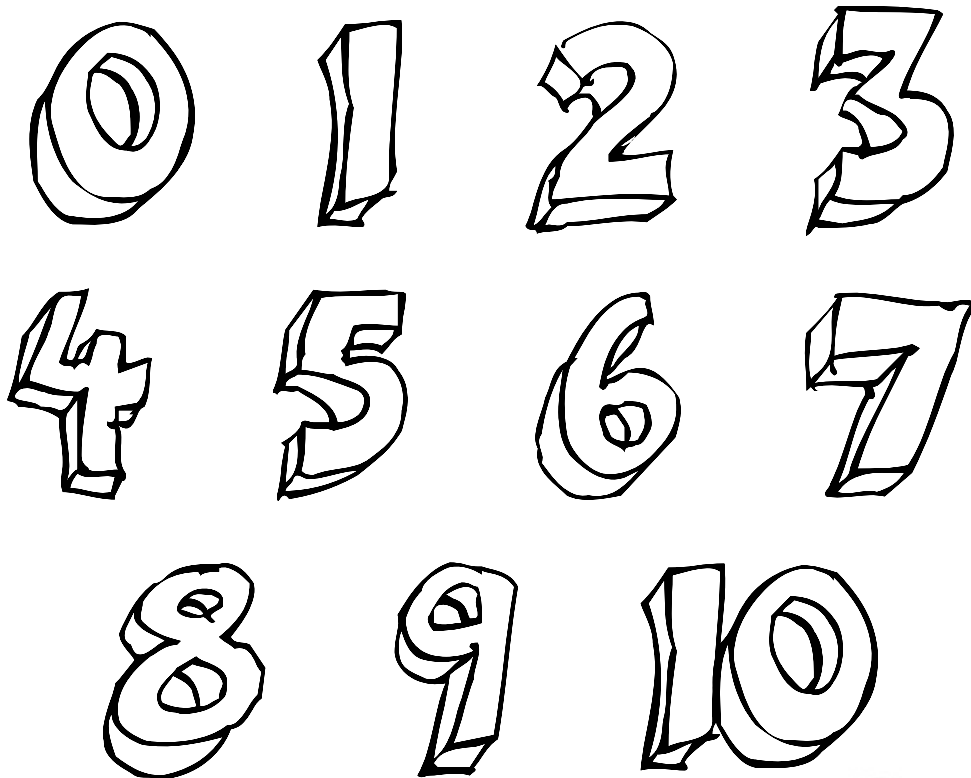
Can you find all these numbers? Tick them when you have found them.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## Number detective

Grab a magnifying glass and your inspector's hat and coat and go on a number hunt around your home or your neighbourhood. Be sure to take a grown-up with you!

When you spot each of the numbers below, colour them in.



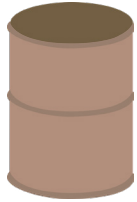
### QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR GROWN-UP

1. Are any of these numbers special to you?
2. Which one shows how old you are?
3. Do you have a favourite number?



## Recognise, write and count 0-3

Now that you can recognise some numbers, let's take a closer look at them. We use numbers to tell us how many or how much. They are also helpful when you are counting.



0 0 0



1 1 1



2 2 2



3 3 3

### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

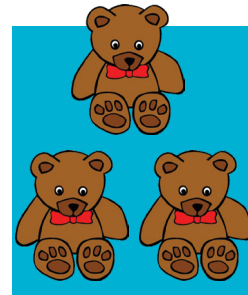
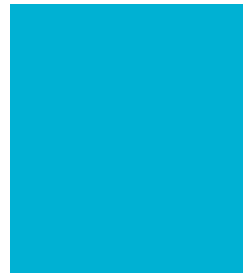
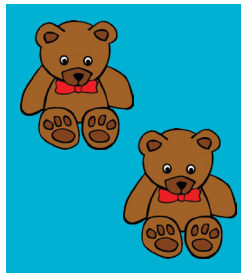
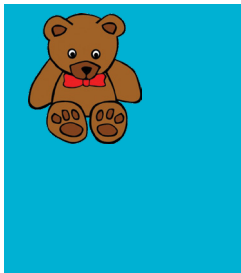
Sometimes numbers are referred to as numerals or digits. When the children are writing their numbers, make sure to follow the same guidelines as with letter formation.

## Practise the numbers 0 to 3

1. Look at the numbers on the pots. Can you draw the right number of crayons in the pots?



2. Count the number of teddies on each rug. Can you write the correct number in the box next to the pictures?



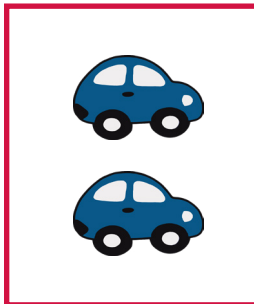
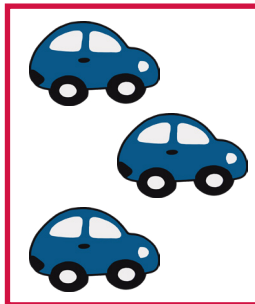
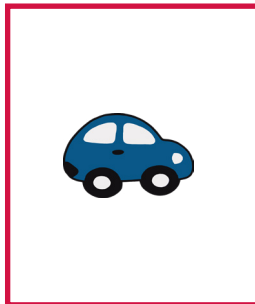
3. Draw lines from the numbers to the right number of toys

2

1

0

3



## Recognise, write and count 4-7

Now you know your numbers zero to three, let's take a look at the numbers four to seven.



4 4 4

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5 5 5

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6 6 6

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7 7 7

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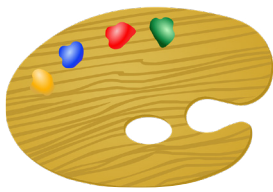
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## Practise the numbers 4-7

1. Look at the numbers on the pots. Can you draw the right number of crayons into the pots?



2. These paint pallets have different numbers of colours on them. In the boxes provided, write how many different colours of paint are on each pallet.



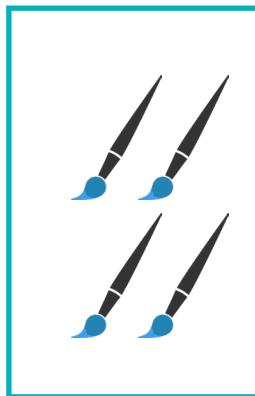
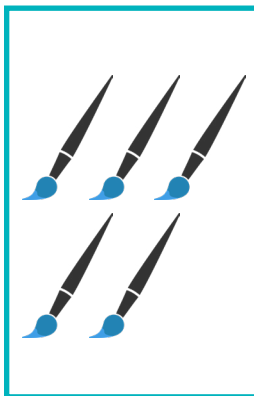
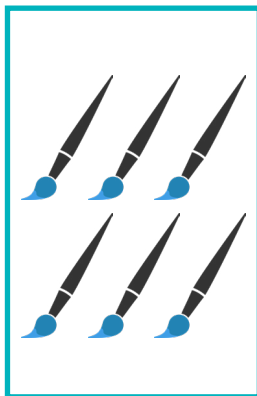
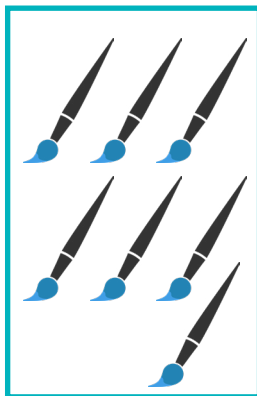
3. Draw lines to match the numbers to the correct amount of paint brushes.

5

4

6

7



## Recognise, write and count 8-10

Excellent number work so far, well done!  
It's time to look at the numbers eight to ten.



8 8 8

---

---



9 9 9

---

---



10 10 10

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## Practise the numbers 8-10

1. Look at the numbers on the pots. Can you draw the right number of crayons into the pots?



2. The numbers eight, nine and ten are missing from this number line. Can you write them back on, in the right place?

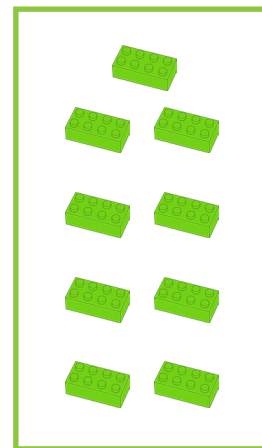
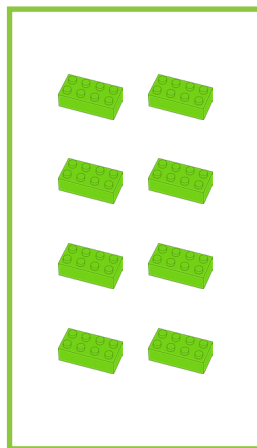
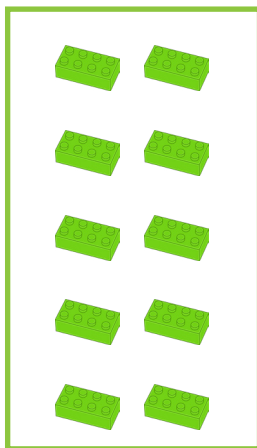


3. Draw lines to match the numbers to the correct number of blocks.

9

10

8

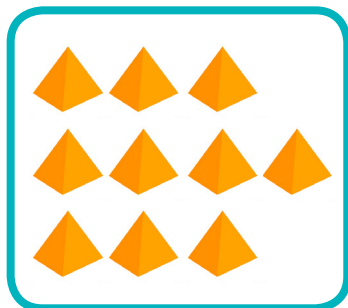
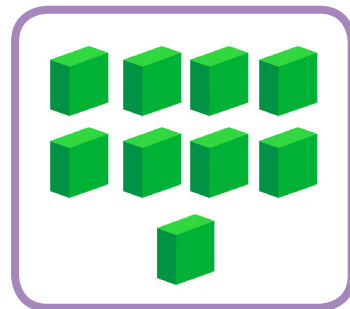
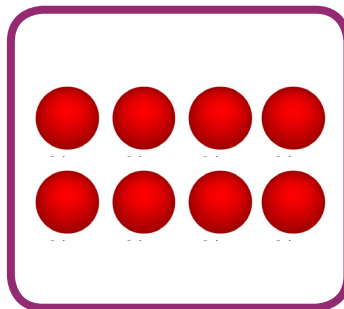
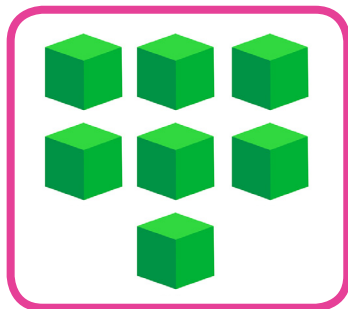
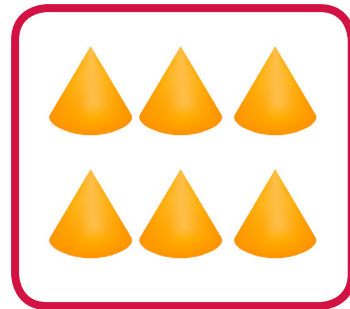
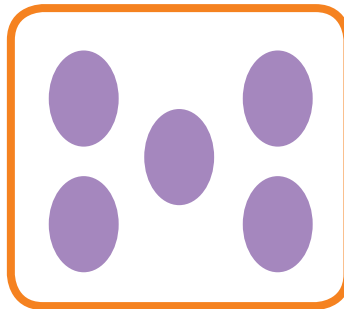
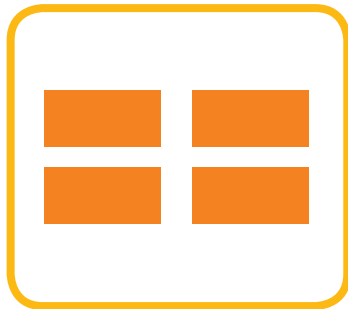
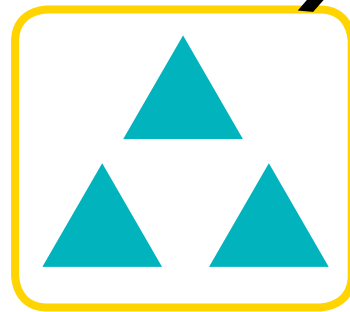
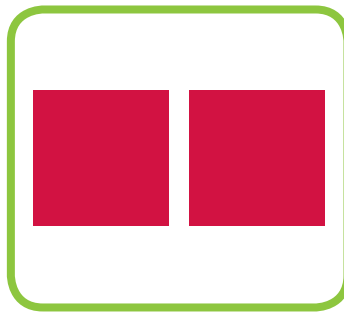
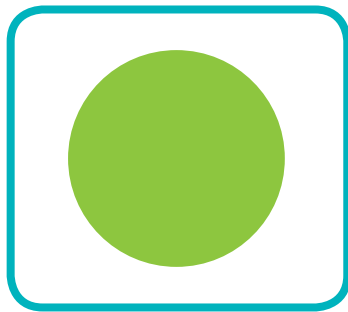


## Numbers to ten pairs game

### How to play

1. Print and cut out the cards (it works best if you print the numbers on one colour paper and the picture cards on another colour paper). Your cards will also last much longer if laminated or printed on card!
2. Place the cards face down.
3. Take it in turns to turn over one number card and one picture card. If they match you keep the pair and have another go. If they don't match turn the cards back over and the next player takes their turn.
4. The player who wins the most pairs is the winner.





## Ordering the numbers 0-10

Ted is getting his numbers in a muddle and cannot remember what order they go in.

Can you help him by cutting out the numbers below and sticking them in the right order?



## Join the dots

Join the dots in the right order to reveal the pictures below.  
Remember to start at 0!

1

0 9

2 3

4 5 6

7 8

0

9

1

7 8

2

6

3

5

4

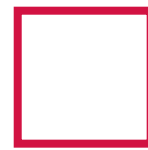
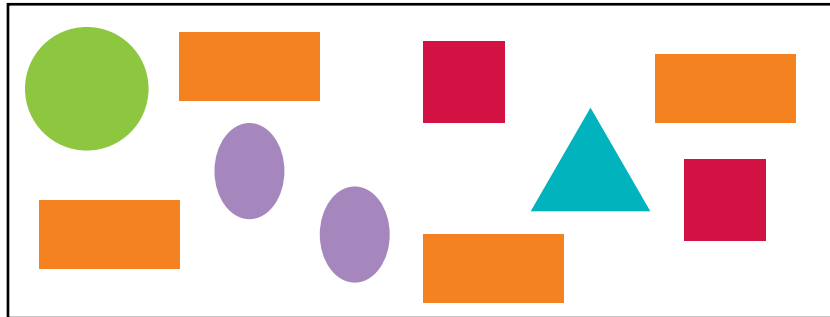
When you have joined the dots and revealed the picture,  
do some colouring in!



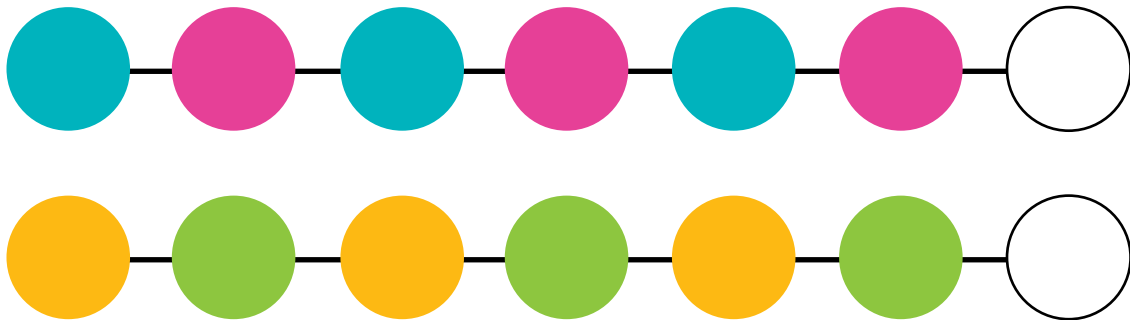
## Maths mixed bag!

Can you complete all these maths mini-puzzles to show off everything you've learnt about numbers?

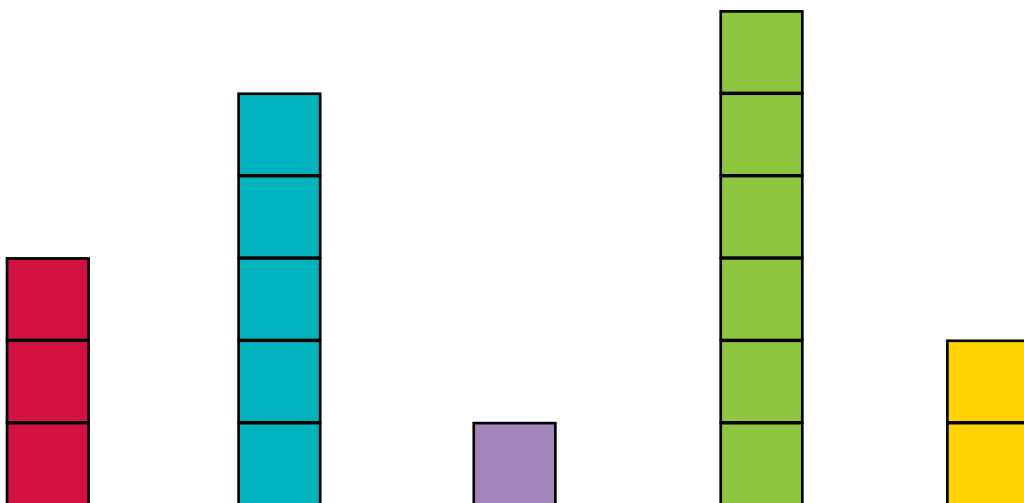
1) How many rectangles can you count in the box? Write your answer in the red square.



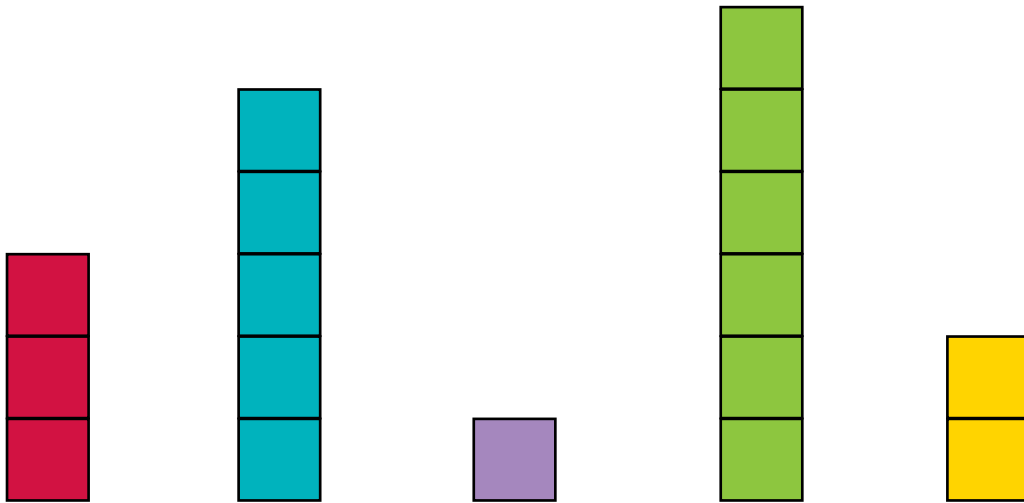
2) What colour bead would come next in these patterns?



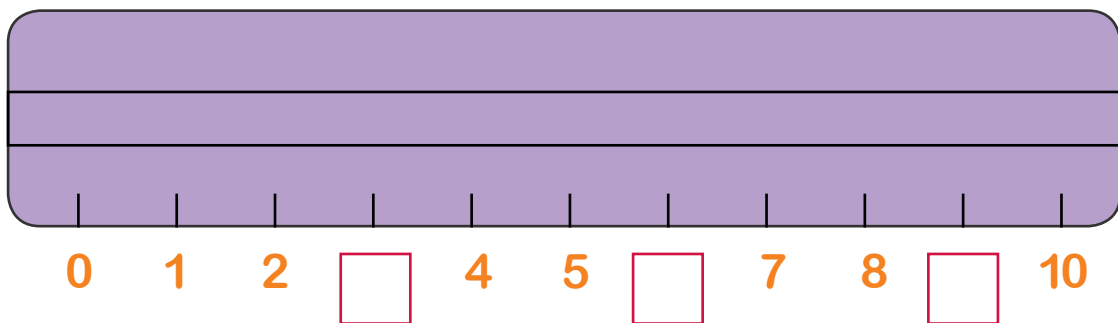
3) Put a circle around the tallest tower.



4) Look at the towers again. Can you count the number of blocks in each one?



5) The numbers have been rubbed off Ted's ruler. Can you write the missing numbers back on?



### GROWN-UPS' TIP!

This last activity will see how much your little learner has remembered from the maths activities. Talk through the questions with your child and give them a hand if they need it. This is not a test and should be fun and enjoyable. Please do not worry if they cannot remember, they'll have plenty of time to practise these skills when they start school.