

Welcome to the Happy Talk Springtime Pack!



Happy Talk is a part of the HSE Speech and Language
Therapy Service.

Happy Talk seeks to support language, literacy and
learning skills of young children.

Welcome to the Happy Talk Springtime Pack!

This pack contains ideas and activities to play and use at home to help develop early language, literacy and learning skills.

We hope you enjoy these resources, and send photos of your drawings, make and do, and stories to us by email to aofe.oshea@hse.ie, by text or Whatsapp to 0876440177 or on Facebook (Happy Talk).

We look forward to seeing our regular Happy Talkers again in Cork City! Please note however, we are happy for this resource to be shared far and wide, and hope as many people as possible enjoy it.

All materials used in this pack are either generated by Happy Talk - HSE or are free to download online.

The activities in this pack are intended for children aged approximately 4 - 8 years. However that doesn't mean some of these activities can't be enjoyed by kids of all ages; even grown up kids!

We wish to thank the students and staff of UCC Speech and Language Therapy Dept. for helping to make these packs possible.

Happy Talk Mindful Moments

Happy Talk Mindful Moments are a chance to take a time out and to settle or energise your brain and body. Learning to pay attention can build great listening and learning skills. In these times it is normal to feel a little worried, and so a Happy Talk Mindful Moment is a great way to remain calm.



Nature Walk Mindful Moment

Let's get ready to go on a nature walk near your home. We are going to do lots of noticing on this walk. We are also going to use some of our senses for this activity. We want to notice how many birds, notice the colour of the flowers, and notice how many insects, creepy crawlies and any other animals we can see. We also want to notice all the sounds we can hear. Finally, we are going to notice what we can feel.

Start by standing at your door and take three deep breaths. As you walk, let's see what you can notice with your eyes. Name 5 things that you can see. Next, take a moment to safely stop and close your eyes and notice all the sounds you can hear. Name 5 things you can hear. Last, as you walk notice the things that you can safely feel and touch. Feel 5 different things to feel. Isn't nature lovely in the springtime!

Springtime Rhymes and Songs

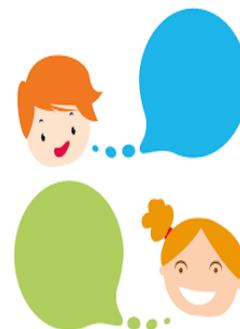
Finally It's Spring!

This rhyme is a Call and Answer Rhyme.

The first thing to do is learn the Call:

What is this happening, now finally it's Spring?

One person uses the call to ask every time and the others answer!



Call	Answer
What is this happening, now finally it's Spring?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The clouds have gone away, the sun, is here to stay!(Use arms to move clouds away!) 2. The leaves are fresh and green, new flowers can be seen! (Pretend to smell the flowers!) 3. Eggs laid by the hen, cows in the field again! (Pretend to eat the grass in the field!) 4. Farmers shearing sheep, the lambs begin to leap. (Get jumping!) 5. The goats, tiny and new, the calves, they start to moo! (Get mooing!) 6. What beautiful sounds, the sun is big and round. (Use arms to make a big round sun!) 7. See the butterflies, they flutter in the sky. (Flutter your arms!) 8. Now we're in the sun, outside we have much fun! (Go have fun!)

Sounds of Spring

(sung to "The Wheels on the Bus")

The birds on the trees go chirp, chirp, chirp,
chirp, chirp, chirp,
chirp, chirp, chirp,

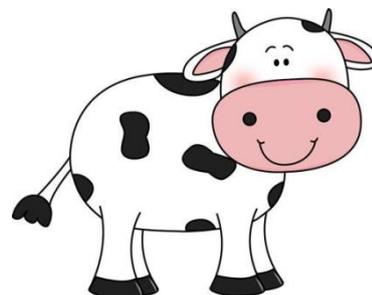
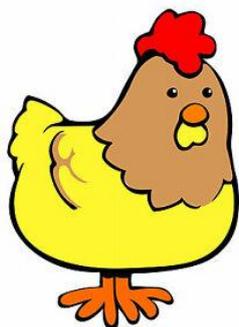
The birds on the trees go chirp, chirp, chirp,

All Spring long!



Repeat using these sounds:

- The sheep in the fields go baa, baa, baa...
- The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo...
- The chickens on the farm go cluck, cluck, cluck...
- The bees in the hive go buzz, buzz, buzz...
- The ducks in the lake go quack, quack, quack...



Walking Through the Garden!

Go for a walk in the garden or near where you live. Use every animal you see in this rhyme! Can you remember when you go home? You can make the noises and actions of the animal each time!



'Walking through the garden

What do I see?

I see a flower looking at me.'

You can try with the following words:

Grasshopper

Ladybird Bird

Chick Puppy

Spider

Piglet

Slug

Butterfly

Rabbit

Worm

Calf

Ant

Frog

Kitten

Lamb

Caterpillar

Duckling

Bee

Foal

Four Little Rabbits!

The first little rabbit went hop, hop, hop,
I said to her: Will you stop, stop, stop?
(Hop... and stop!)

The second little rabbit went run, run, run!
I said to him: Wow, what fun, fun, fun!
(Run... and have fun!)

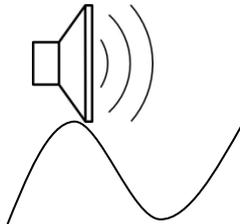
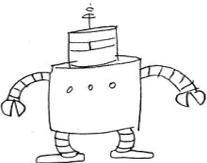
The third little rabbit went thump, thump, thump!
I said to her: Can you jump, jump, jump?
(Thump/wiggle your pretend tail... and jump!)

The fourth little rabbit went nibble, nibble,
nibble,
I said to him: Don't you dribble, dribble, dribble!
(Pretend to eat a carrot!)



Rhyme Time Voices and Games

Say the rhymes using the following games and activities.

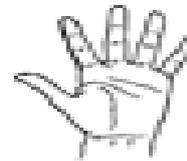
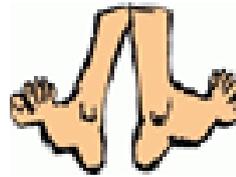
<p>Whisper</p> 	<p>Loud-Soft-Loud</p> 	<p>Laughing</p> 
<p>Robot Voice</p> 	<p>Silly Voice</p> 	<p>Slow Motion</p> 

When it gets a bit easier try these games:

<p>Tap/drum/clap out each beat</p> 	<p>Tap/drum/clap out each word</p> 	<p>Say every second word with your child</p> 
<p>Leave words and see can your child fill the gaps</p> 	<p>Make mistakes and see does your child spot them</p> 	

Happy Talk Listening Rules

1. Look with your eyes
2. Listen with your ears
3. Mouth is closed
4. Feet on the ground
5. Hands are still



Springtime Go Game!

To prepare for this game draw and cut out some Springtime pictures e.g. butterflies, flowers, cow, chicken, sun etc. Spread the pictures all around the floor or on the ground outside.

The most important word in this game is 'Go!' Give the children some instructions to follow e.g. Run to the flowers... But *they must wait* until you say 'Go!'

- Run to the flowers... .. (wait) go!
- Hop to the rabbit... .. (wait) go!
- Walk and smell the flowers... .. (wait) go!

You can make it harder by giving them more than one instruction e.g. Run to the flowers *and* then bunny hop to the rabbit... .. (wait) go!

Remember the listening rules as you play! Listen with your ears and look with your eyes!

Colouring in Springtime!

Picture 1

Draw a **YELLOW** sun next to the cloud.

Colour the sky **BLUE**.

Find the biggest flower. Colour the leaves **PINK** and colour the stem **GREEN**.

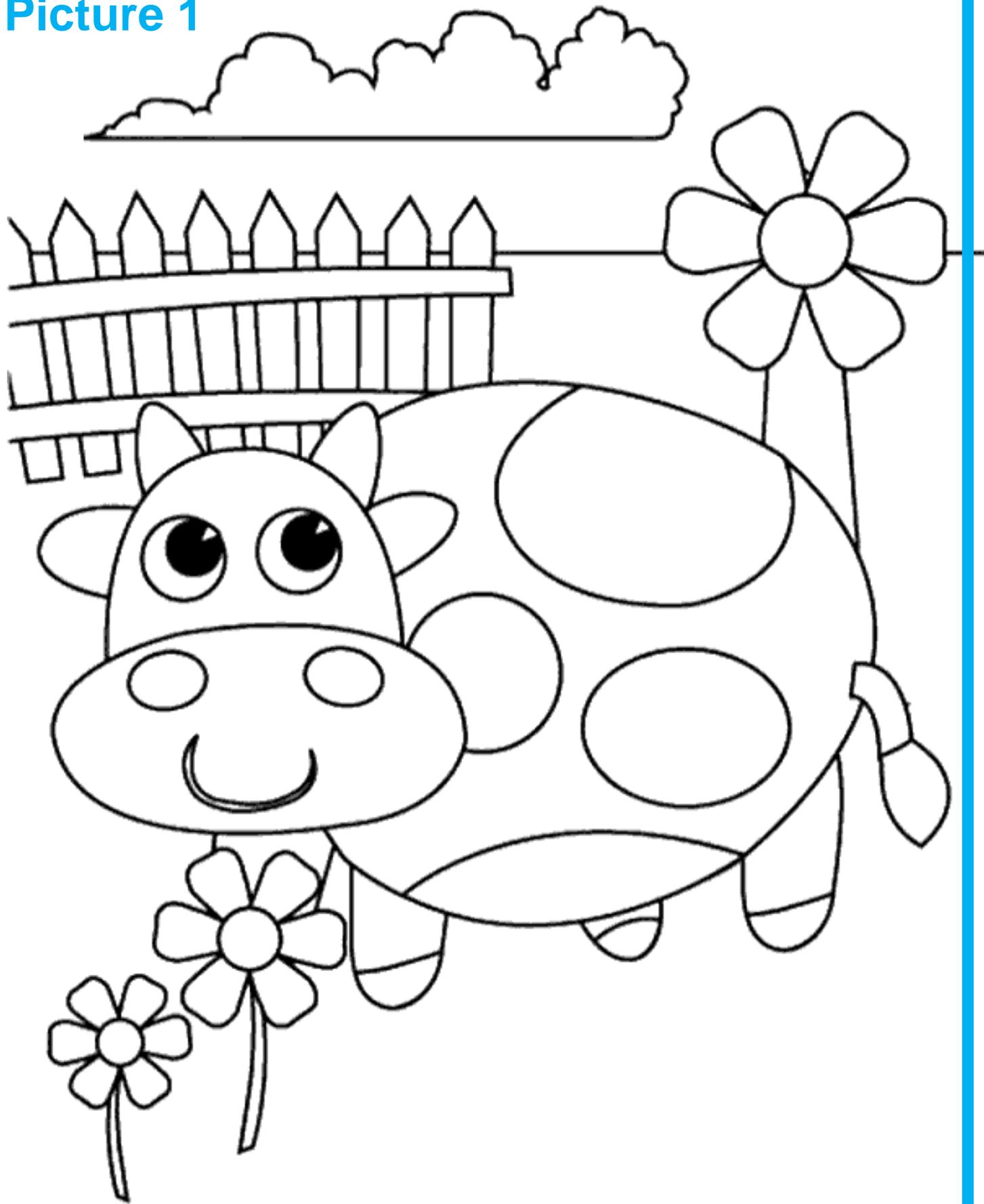
Colour the smaller flowers **ORANGE** with **GREEN** stems.

Colour all the grass **GREEN**.

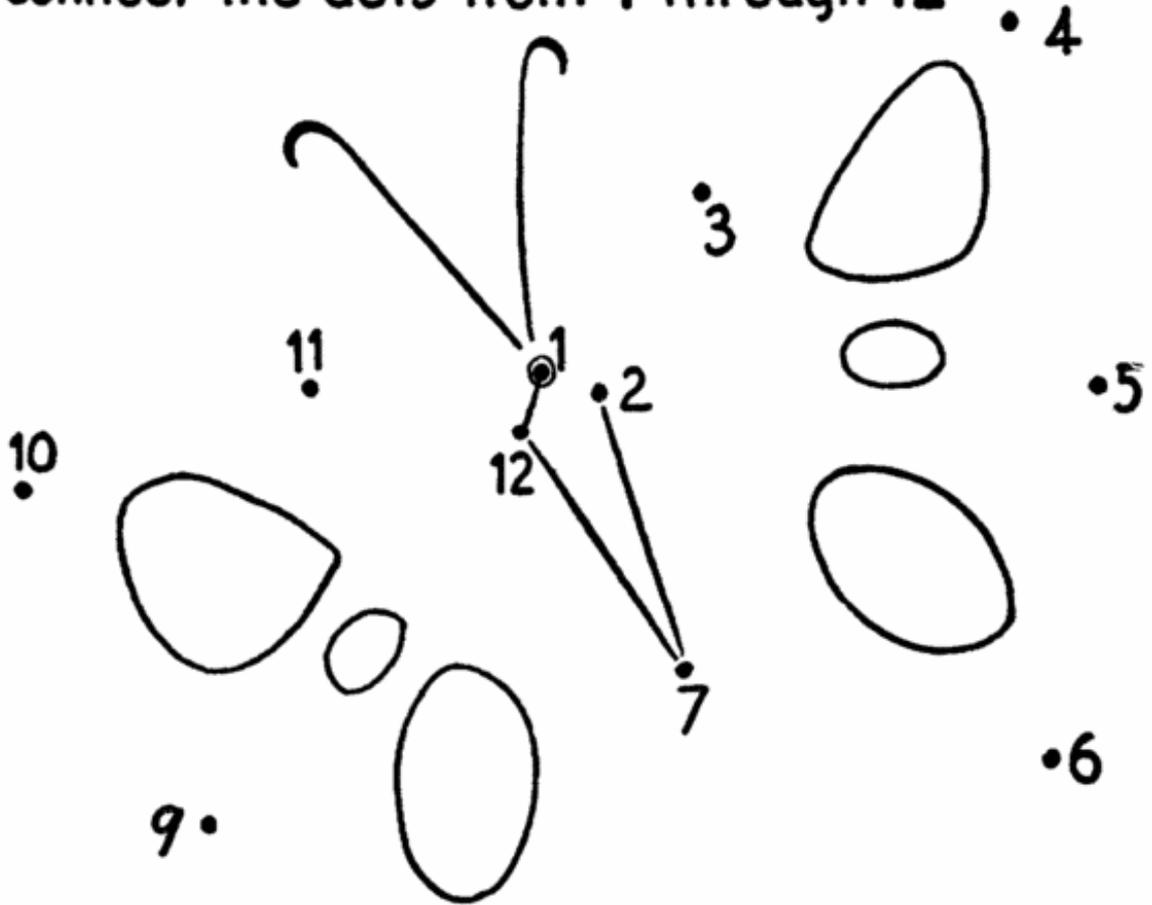
Colour the gate **BROWN**.

Colour the cow **BLACK** and **WHITE**.

Picture 1



Connect the dots from 1 through 12



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Can you find all these things in your garden, your estate, the park or near where you live?

You can learn lots of language playing this game.

Use describing words such as "the big bird" or "the pink flower" or the "tall grass".

Make connections between all the things you find e.g. the leaf is from a tree/bees love to "buzz" around flowers.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

 FLOWER <input type="checkbox"/>	 TREE <input type="checkbox"/>	 BIRD <input type="checkbox"/>	 GRASS <input type="checkbox"/>
 MUSHROOM <input type="checkbox"/>	 SPIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	 BUTTERFLY <input type="checkbox"/>	 LEAF <input type="checkbox"/>
 ACORN <input type="checkbox"/>	 LOG <input type="checkbox"/>	 ANIMAL TRACKS <input type="checkbox"/>	 CLOUD <input type="checkbox"/>
 WATER <input type="checkbox"/>	 STUMP <input type="checkbox"/>	 ANT <input type="checkbox"/>	 BRANCH <input type="checkbox"/>
 SUN <input type="checkbox"/>	 FLY <input type="checkbox"/>	 PINE TREE <input type="checkbox"/>	 BEE <input type="checkbox"/>

Cotton Wool Sheep!

What you need:

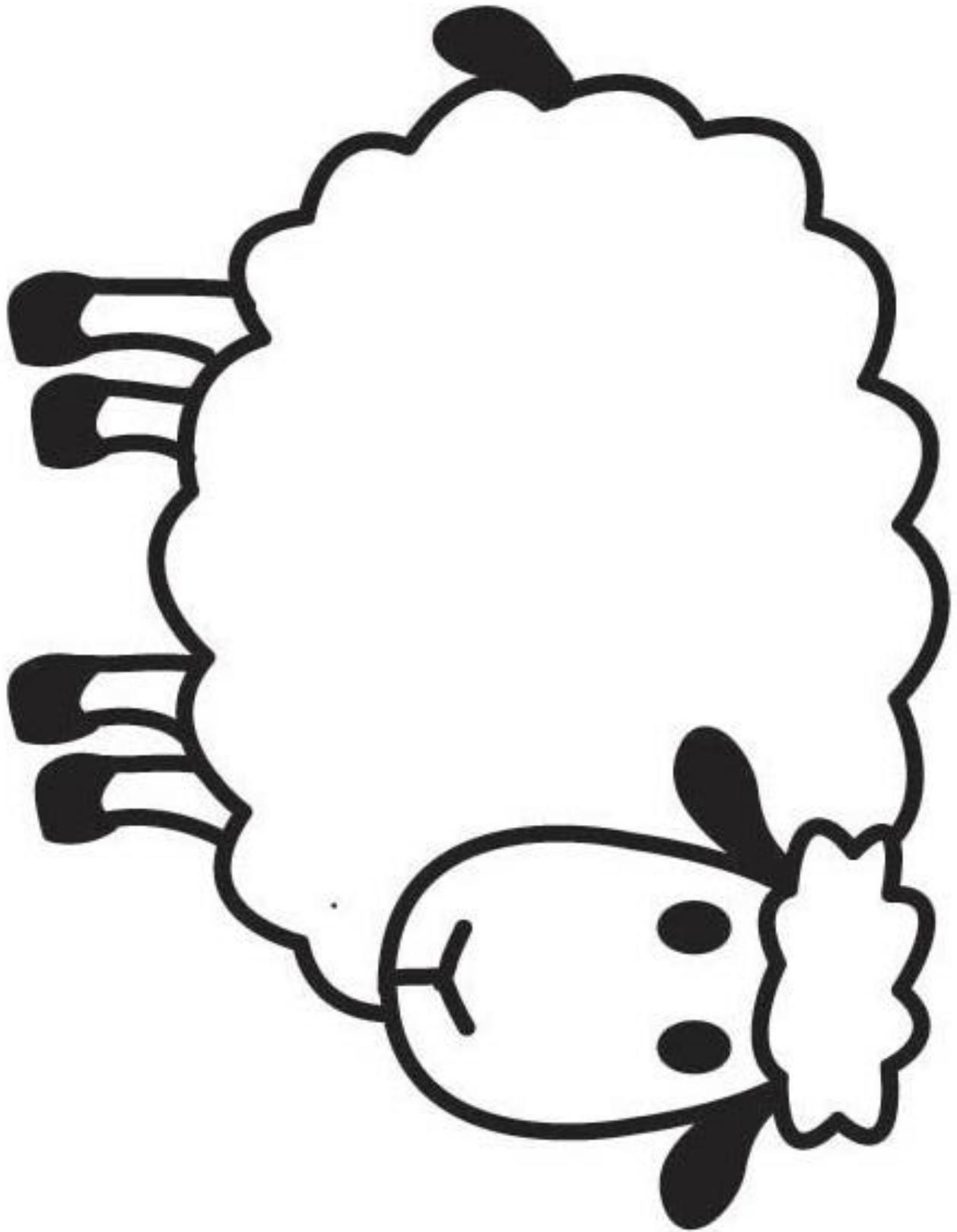
- Cotton Wool Balls
- Paper to draw outline of sheep or use the one on the next page.
- Paint/Colours
- Glue
- Dice



Instructions:

1. Draw a sheep, or trace, or print the sheep on the following page. You can make it more fun by using coloured paper as your background!
2. Take turns rolling a dice, and glue on the number of cotton balls on your sheep. Who can fill their sheep up first?!
3. Finish by colouring or painting the Sheep's Legs/Head and the Background.





Let's use our hands/fingers to paint!

Here are some ideas



(You could use plastic forks here too!)

Springtime Jokes



Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny!

Q: What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?

A: Lily!

Q: What kind of garden does a baker have?

A: A 'flour' garden!

Q: What's a baby chick's favourite plant?

A: An egg plant!

Q: What did the big flower say to the little flower?

A: You're really growing, bud!

More Springtime Jokes



Q: What falls
but never gets
hurt?

A: The rain!

Q: What goes up
when the rain
comes down?

A: An umbrella!

Q: Why did the bird go to
the hospital?

A: He needed tweetment!

Q: What do you say to
a fancy cactus?

A: You're looking sharp!

Q: How do bees go to school?

A: On a school buzz!

Q: Why do bananas
use sun cream?

A: Because they peel!

Q: What do you
call a plant that
roars?

A: A dandelion!

Springtime Word Search

M	S	E	C	E	C	O	W	J	R
O	R	M	H	G	Q	H	U	B	B
O	A	B	I	G	N	L	A	C	X
W	I	I	C	S	K	A	F	J	H
D	N	R	K	H	N	D	L	C	I
M	B	D	E	E	A	Y	O	P	N
X	O	S	N	E	N	B	W	F	O
E	W	U	G	P	M	I	E	A	V
G	F	N	O	N	M	R	R	R	M
R	W	L	C	V	I	D	S	M	M

CHICKEN

EGGS

BIRD

FLOWERS

SUN

RAINBOW

COW

SHEEP

LADYBIRD

FARM

Springtime Word Search

D	X	V	R	T	F	L	A	M	B	C	S	E	P	O
A	F	I	O	E	Q	C	V	B	T	G	L	E	H	W
F	R	F	F	R	O	G	M	C	V	R	T	R	H	O
F	C	O	T	G	W	V	D	H	B	A	G	T	M	L
O	G	T	W	W	V	M	Y	I	J	S	L	D	T	L
D	C	E	R	Q	H	R	L	C	F	S	V	H	J	E
I	S	Q	V	A	N	H	J	K	J	N	T	J	E	Y
L	P	R	T	E	I	B	G	E	G	A	Q	F	B	C
F	G	I	P	L	L	N	Y	N	H	N	B	C	O	W
J	R	G	H	Q	X	Z	B	C	Z	B	P	T	H	H
C	L	O	U	D	S	Z	F	O	H	T	E	Q	N	G
F	H	I	L	T	W	Q	V	B	W	H	H	S	K	H
E	G	G	K	G	A	P	R	I	L	H	E	U	G	G
D	V	H	R	Q	R	V	B	O	K	J	T	N	G	F
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	L	L	P	E	Q	X

RAINBOW

GRASS

APRIL

LAMB

SUN

BUTTERFLY

TREE

EGG

YELLOW

FROG

DAFFODIL

CLOUDS

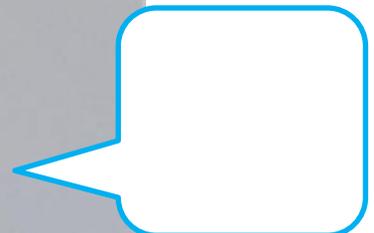
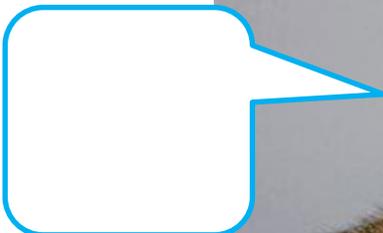
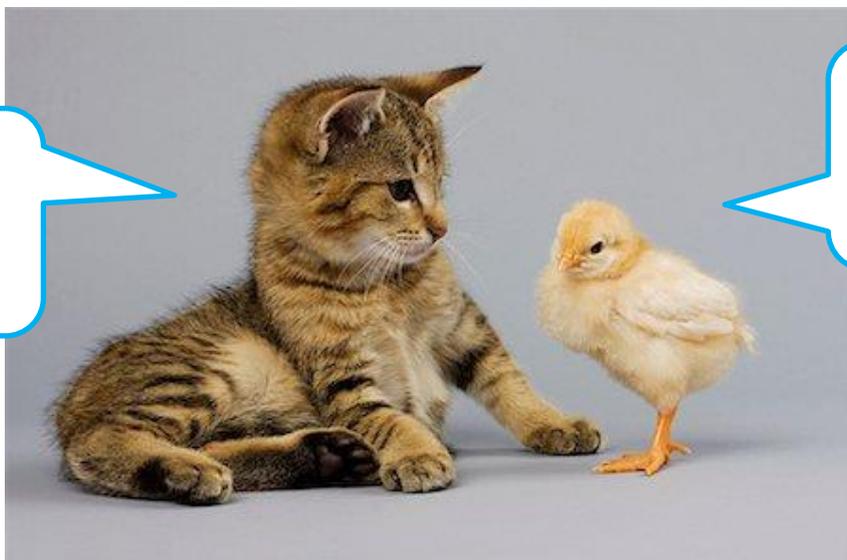
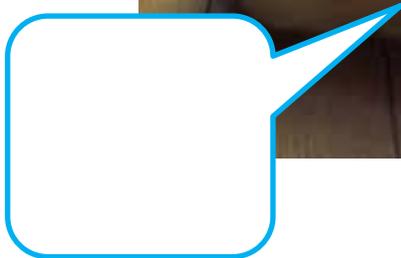
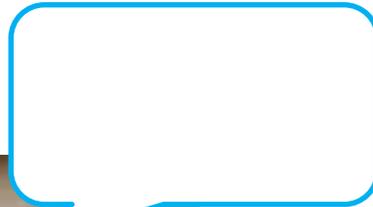
COW

CHICKEN

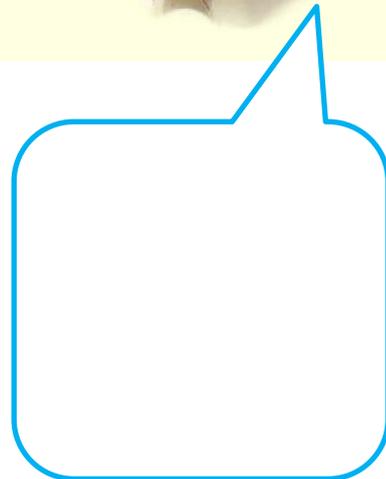
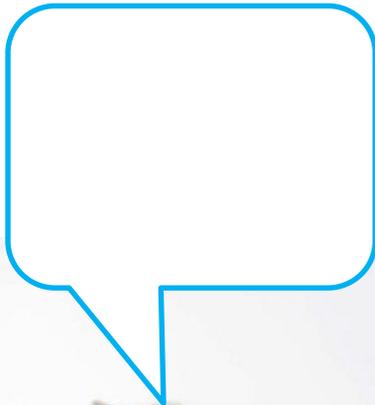
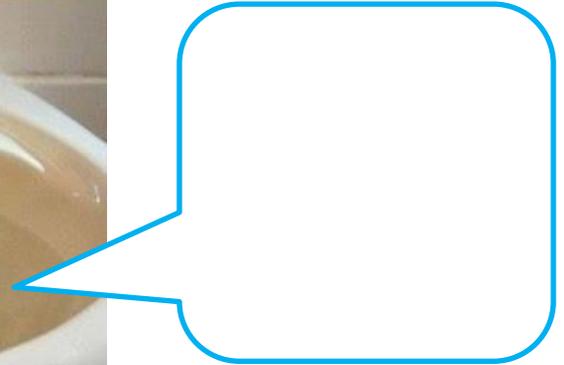
PIG

Springtime, Let's Talk!

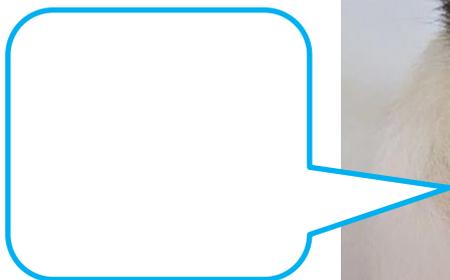
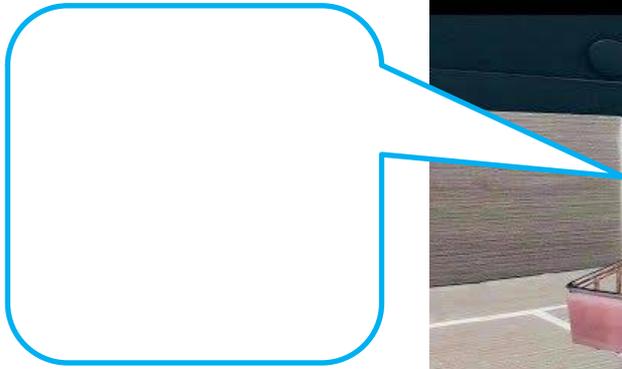
Springtime is the favourite time of year for lots of animals! Let's imagine what Spring is like for these chicks, rabbits and lambs! Take some time and look at the pictures below and imagine what these animals would like to say to us or to each other.



Springtime, Let's Talk

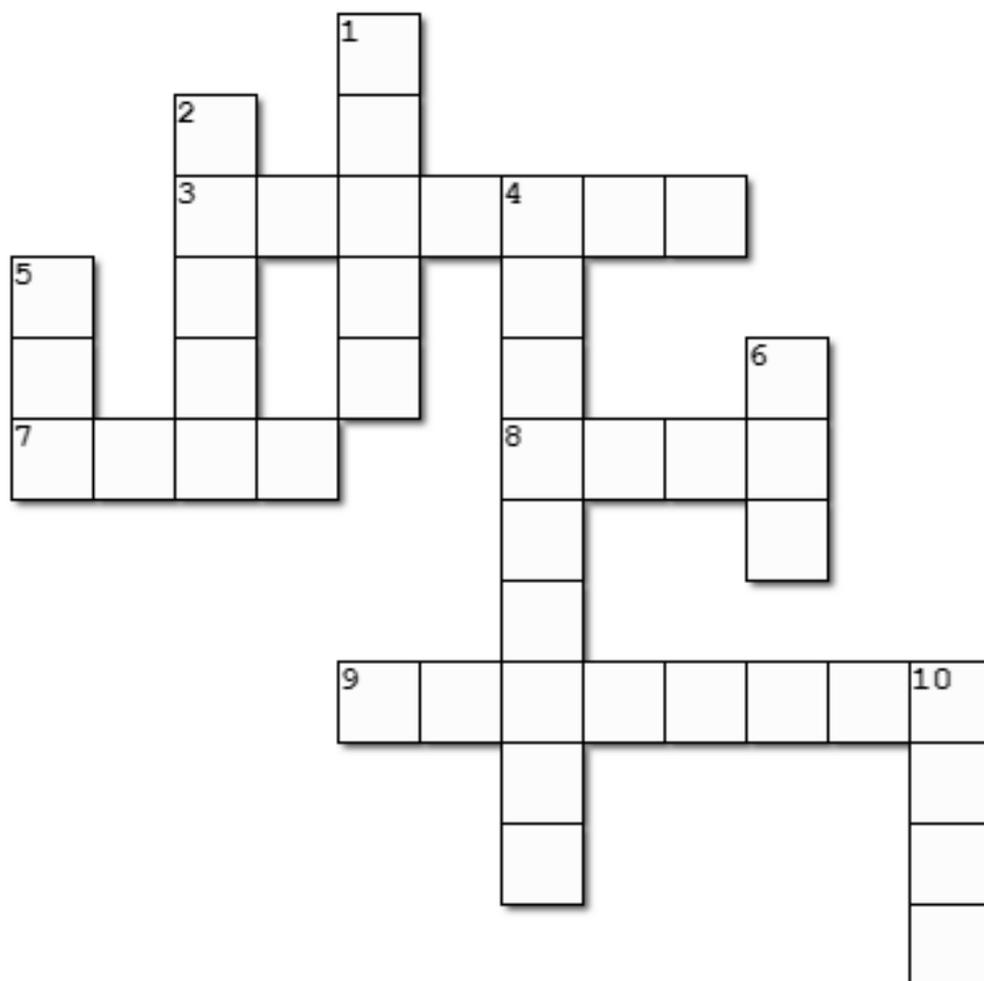


Springtime, Let's Talk



Springtime!

Complete the crossword puzzle below....



Across

3. This appears after the rain and it has 7 colours!
7. You would you find a bird's eggs here
8. What do leaves grow on?
9. This flower grows in the springtime and it is yellow!

Down

1. This is another word for a baby chicken
2. This grows long and it is the colour green
4. This insect has colourful wings
5. This shines bright on a nice day!
6. What insect goes 'buzz' around the flowers
10. This is another word for a baby sheep

Answers are on the next page!

Answers to the Crossword:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Chick | 6. Bee |
| 2. Grass | 7. Nest |
| 3. Rainbow | 8. Tree |
| 4. Butterfly | 9. Daffodil |
| 5. Sun | 10. Lamb |

Another Fun Idea for Art Outside:

Rock Painting!



Exploring New Words!

Growing

What does *Growing* mean? (Look it up!)

Put the word 'Growing' in a sentence:

What does this word make you think of?

Can you act out something growing?

How many parts (syllables) does this word have? Clap out each part.

Can you make up some words that rhyme with *Growing*:

(Answers can be said out loud. They don't have to be written down.)

Exploring New Words!

Shine

What does shine mean? (Look it up!)

Put the word 'shine' in a sentence:

What does this word make you think of?

Can you give examples of things that shine?

How many syllables (parts) does this word have? Clap out each part.

Can you make up some words that rhyme with shine:

(Answers can be said out loud. They don't have to be written down.)

Exploring New Words!

Scavenger

What does Scavenger mean? (Look it up!)

Put the word 'scavenger' in a sentence:

What does this word make you think of?

When might you go on a scavenger hunt in spring?

How many syllables (parts) does this word have?

Many names for jobs end in 'er'. Can you think of other words that end in 'er'. (List them here).

Telling Springtime Stories

Who? Pick some characters for your Springtime Story.

Who is your main character going to be, a lamb, a farmer? Who else is going to be in your story? Give them name!

Draw your characters and use these pictures when telling your story.

Where? Where will your story take place? In the garden? On the farm? Will the characters go somewhere?

When? Is your story taking place in the morning, or the afternoon? Is it evening or night-time? Is it taking place on the weekend or during the week? (The story is in Springtime so maybe it takes place on a sunny spring morning).

Story Plan

Make a plan for your story by asking yourself:

1. What is going to happen first?
2. What will happen in the middle?
3. What will happen at the end?



Use the Mind Map on the next page to help organise your story!

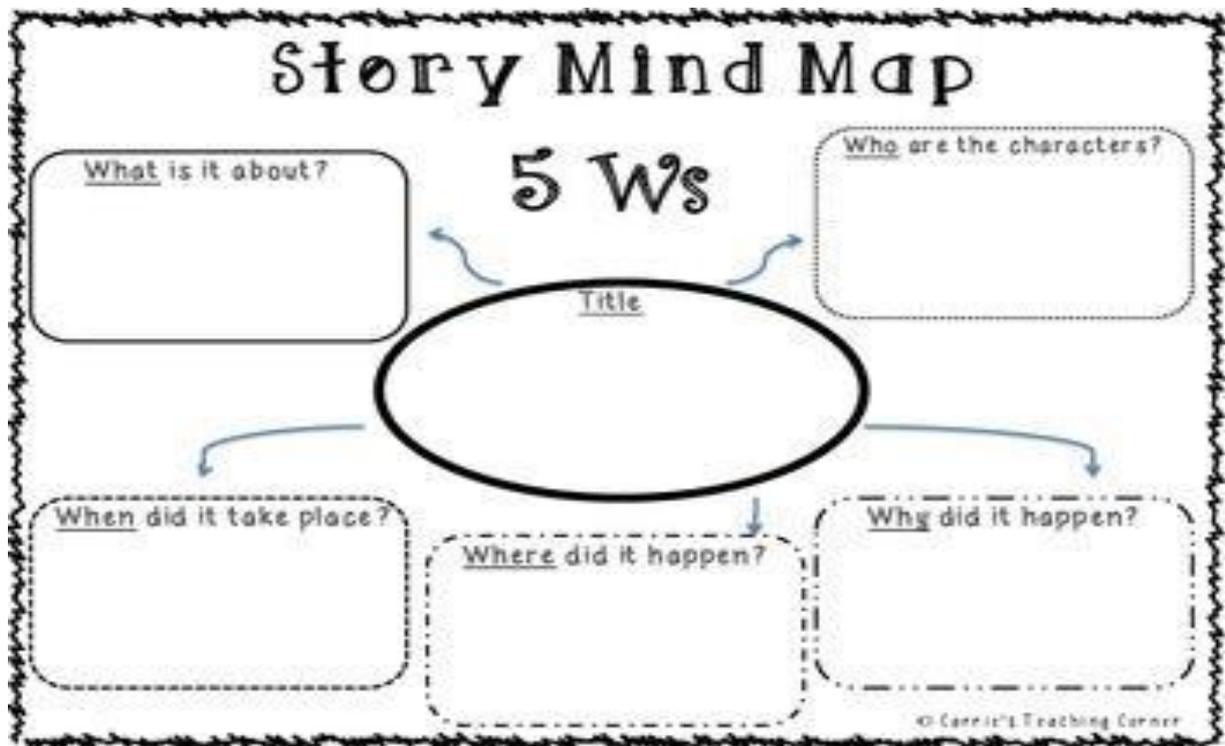
Tell Your Story

Tell your story out loud: Practice telling the story out loud to someone else. You can call someone on the phone to tell them your story.

Draw your story: Draw pictures, each one showing the different parts of your story.

Write your story: Write your story down, with pictures!

Act your story out: Pretend you are the characters in your story and act it out.



Remember Your Story

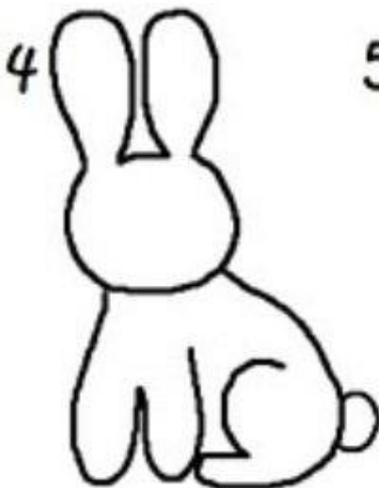
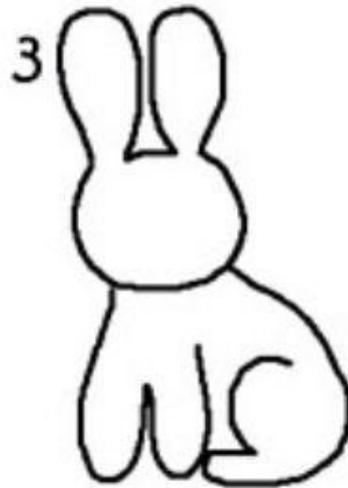
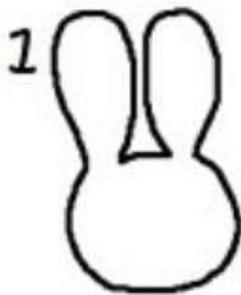
Later on, or tomorrow, see can you remember your story. What were the names of your characters? What happened to them? How did they feel? Was it funny or scary? Can you think what might happen to these characters next?



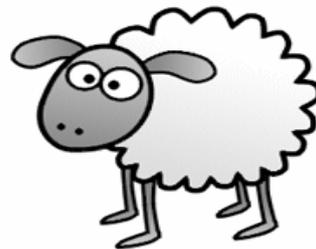
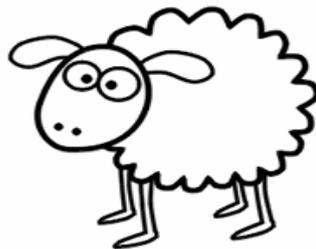
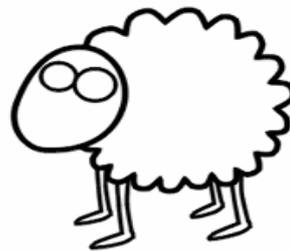
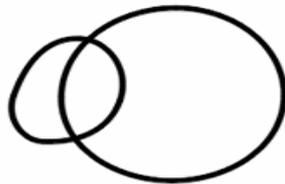
Drawing in Stages

Use these step by step drawing plans to draw a bunny rabbit, a chick and a lamb. Talk about each part using the word

First, Next, Next, Then, Then, Last



Learn to Draw a Chick



Rice Krispie Nests!

When doing this activity with kids, you could focus on...

- Counting: How many eggs, cups etc.
- Doing words: Adding, mixing, stirring, folding, etc.
- Describing words: Soft, crunchy, squishy, pink, blue, sweet, round, gooey etc.
- Naming words: Ingredients etc.



Ingredients:

- 4 cups marshmallows
- 5 cups rice cereal
- 1/4 cup coconut oil or butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla (optional!)
- 2 cups mini eggs

Instructions

1. Grease a muffin/cupcake/queen cake tray or tin.
2. Place the marshmallows in a large microwave-safe bowl and heat for 25-30 seconds. Stir well, and repeat heating until all the marshmallows are melted.
3. Add the melted coconut oil or butter and vanilla extract to the marshmallows and stir well.
4. Add the rice cereal one cup at a time, gently folding it into the marshmallow mix. Do this until all of the cereal is mixed with the marshmallow mix.
5. Scoop some of the rice krispie treats into each one of the muffin tray cups.
6. Wet your hands and press the rice krispies into a cup or tart-shape.
7. Place in the fridge for 2 hours or overnight to set.
8. When the nests have had a chance to set and harden, pop them out of the muffin tray and fill with treats. You could use mini eggs/jellybeans or berries!

Happy Baking!

*This recipe was found on the "Amanda's Cookin' " website. Check out more Easter baking ideas to do with the kid's this website: <https://amandascookin.com/rice-krispie-nests/>

