

## Online Virtual KinderPrep activities for Week 1:

Welcome song:

Hello everybody and how are you? How are you? How are you?

Hello everybody and how are you today?

Other verses: And clap your hands; Stomp your feet; Jump right up; Sit right down

Explanation of program - This program is to help you learn the skills that your child needs to know to enter Kindergarten so that you will be able to help your child at home. Parents, you know where your child is. Start where they are at. Every child learns at a different rate and that's okay! Introduce the concept and do the activity with them if they do not know how. If they are already familiar with the activity, then have them do it or even make it more challenging if they are already skilled at that area. The skills we are going to work on in these workshops are ones that Kindergarten teachers from District 91 and District 93 have told us that are needed for students entering Kindergarten. So, these are local produced not some countrywide guidelines.

The first skill we are going to work on is colors. The teachers have asked that children know 11 basic colors and are able to identify and name them. Activity: Find colors around the room – hold up colored paper and have the children go to that color.

Another skill that children need is to be able to identify and name the letters of the alphabet. Uppercase or capital letters are easier to identify so we usually start with those letters and then do lowercase. But you can do both at the same time if you want. Children should also start to identify some of the sounds that the letters make. We will work on this skill each week.

Introduce the letters ABC. Use magnetic capital letters and spread out on white board. While showing the letter, tell them the name of the letter, show how to write it, and say the sound it makes. Tell them some words that begin with that sound.

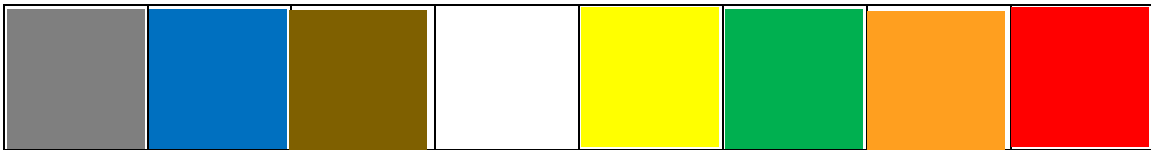
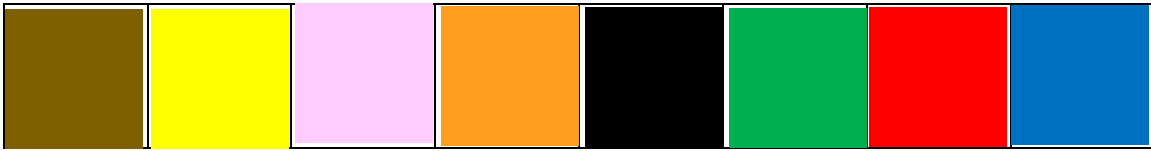
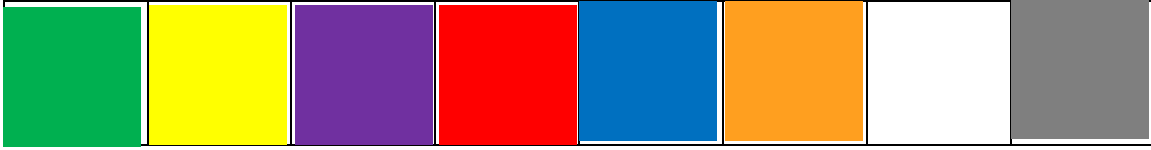
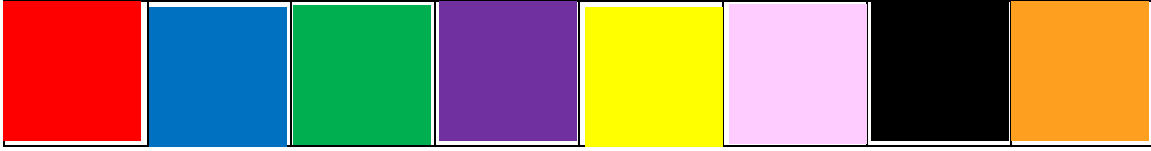
Show the letter A and tell them the sound /a/. Say words that start with /a/ such as ant, apple, alligator. Then sing the song: "We're looking for an A, we're looking for an A, /a/, /a/, /a/, /a/, We're looking for an A." Have your child find the letter A. Repeat with B (boy, big, bat) and C (cup, candy, cat).

### **For each workshop there will be 5 activities to do with your child at home.**

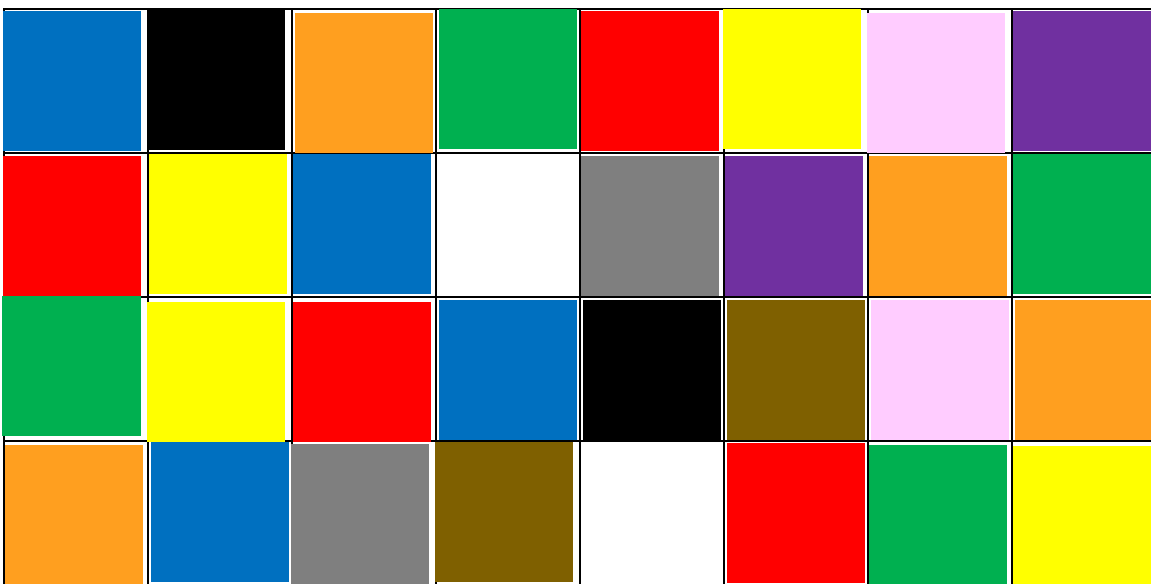
- 1) Show your child the 11 colors and name them. Match colors with the color "trains" – Cut out the paper with the colored squares. Have your child make a train with those squares that matches the trains on the paper. Have your child say the name of the color as they put it together.
- 2) Cut out the spinner and the letter cards. On the floor, place the cards with A, B, and C. If wanted, put down tape to make a roadway to each letter. Spin the spinner. Say what letter it lands on. Drive the car to the same letter that was spun. Spin the wheel again and again. If your child already knows the letters, then ask them what sound it makes. You will need a toy car, spinner, and ABC cards.
- 3) Taking turns, pick up a card and match the objects that have the same color. After matching all of the cards, then describe one of the pictures making sure you use the color word. For example: I see a red piece of fruit. You can eat it raw or make a pie out of it. (apple) You will need the color object cards.
- 4) Another skill children need to know is to recognize and write their first name. You will make a name necklace. You will write 1 letter per rectangle; the first letter should be a capital and the rest lowercase. Have your child trace the letters and name them. Then have your child cut the rectangle letters apart, mix up the letters, and then have your child put it back together in the correct order. Fold the paper over on line and tape. String the letters on yarn to make a necklace. You will need paper with squares, yarn, markers, tape, and scissors.
- 5) Read the book, "Max's ABCs" by Rosemary Wells or any other simple alphabet book and talk about some of the letters. Make sure you point out the letters A, B, C that we are working on and the first letter of their name. Read "One Red Sock" by Sattler or any other book about colors

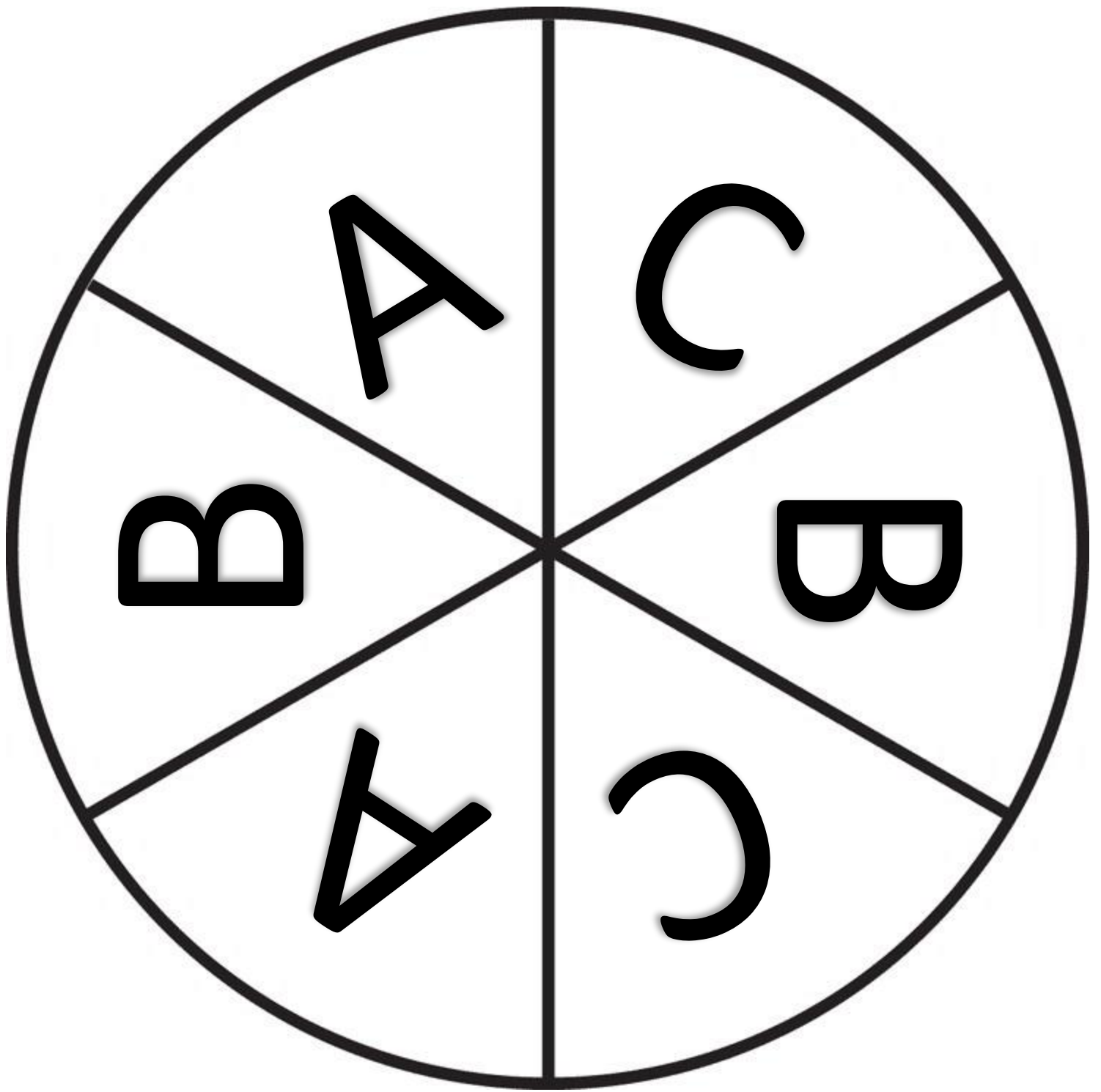
The handout at the end will give you some ideas of other activities you can do to encourage learning colors and gaining letter knowledge.

These are the color trains to match:



Cut these squares apart:





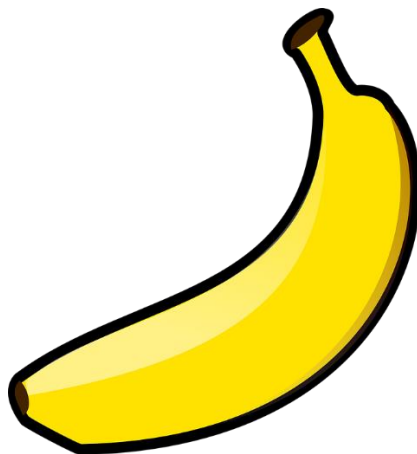
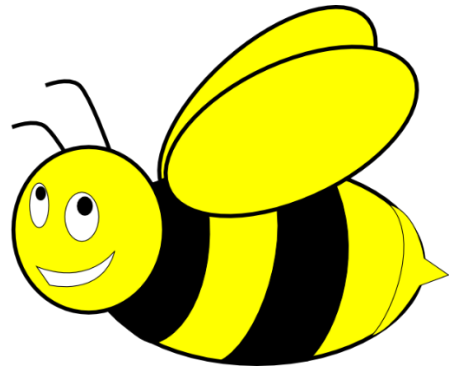
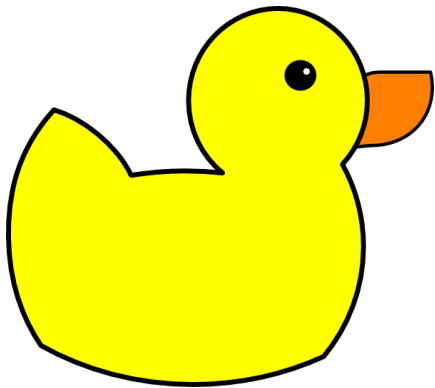
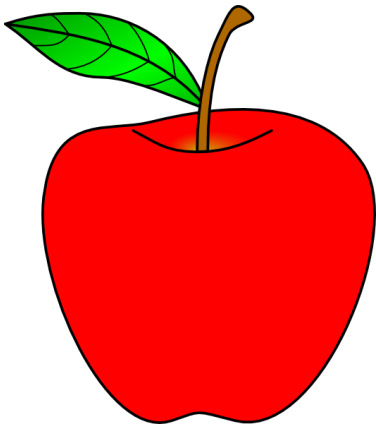
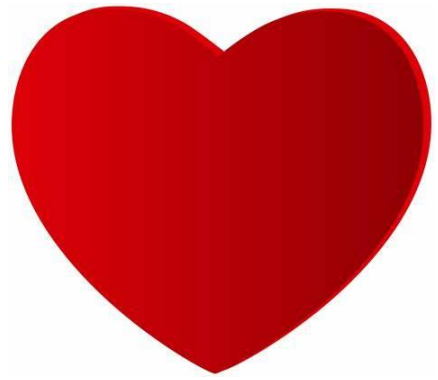
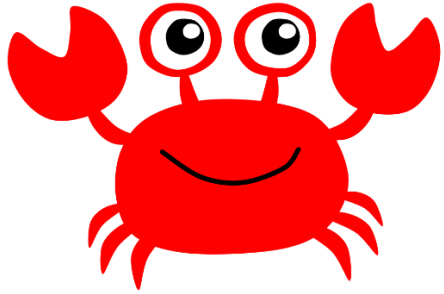
You can either put a paper clip held on by a brad to make the spinner, or simply drop a small object on it.

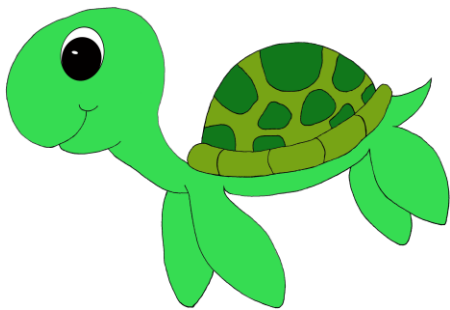
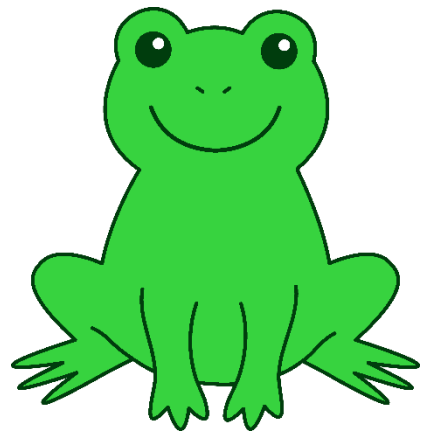
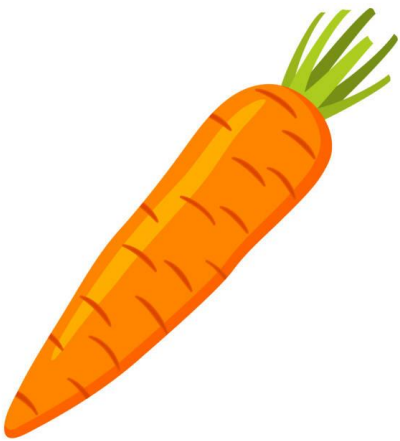
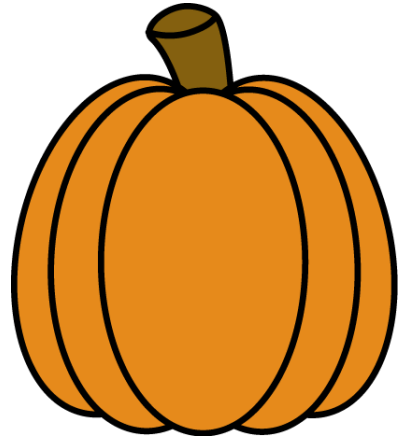
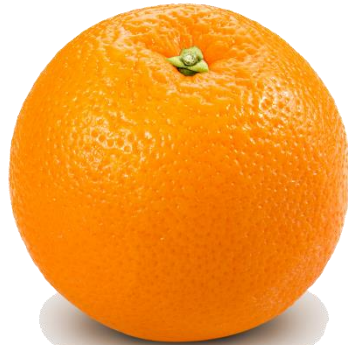
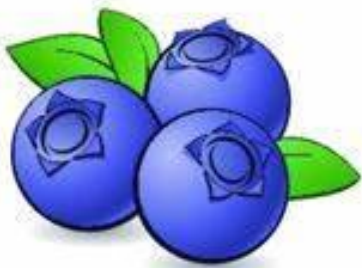
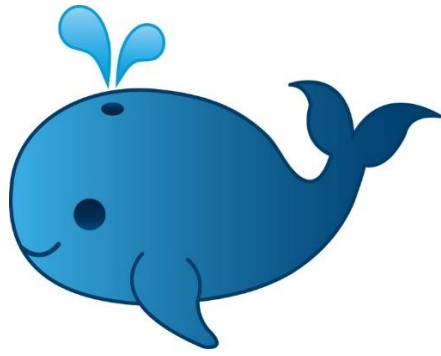
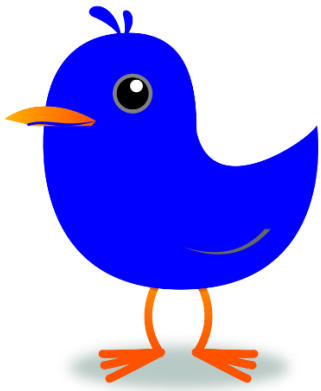
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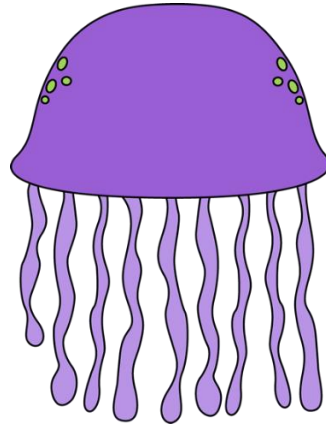
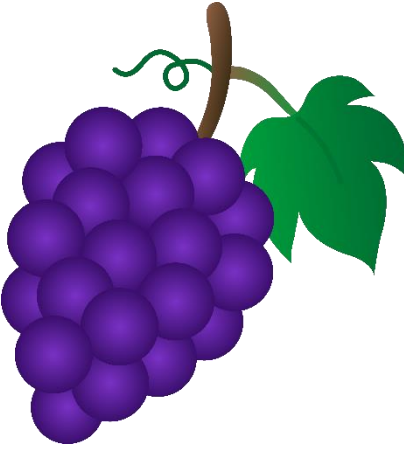
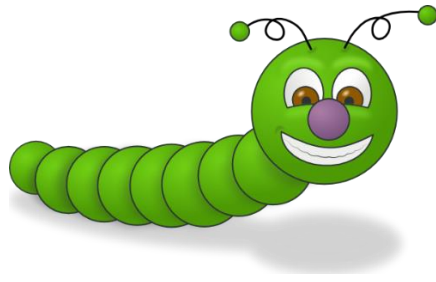
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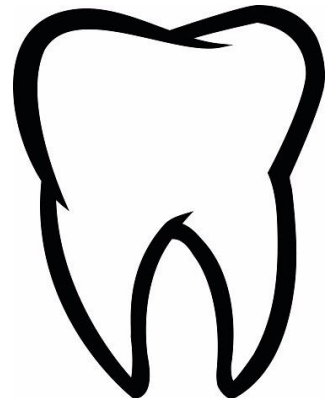
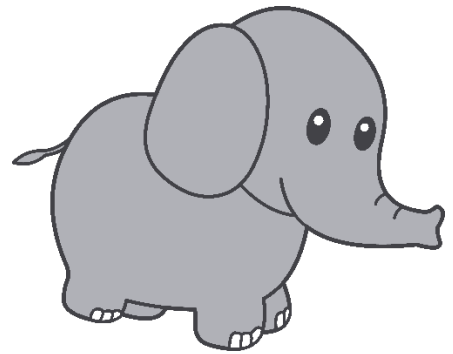
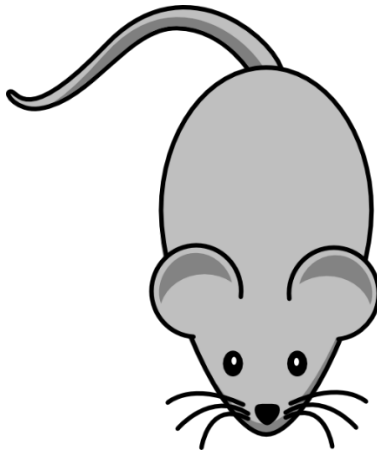
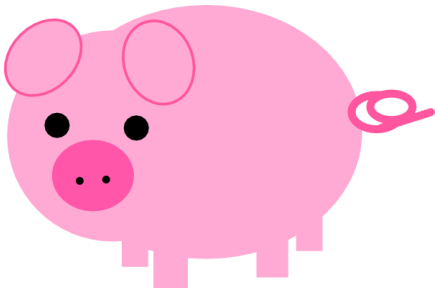
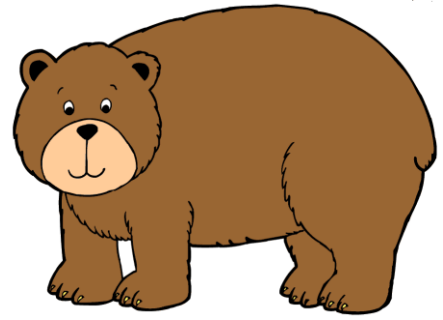
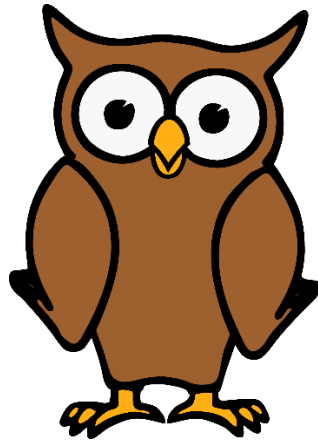
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Color matching activity:



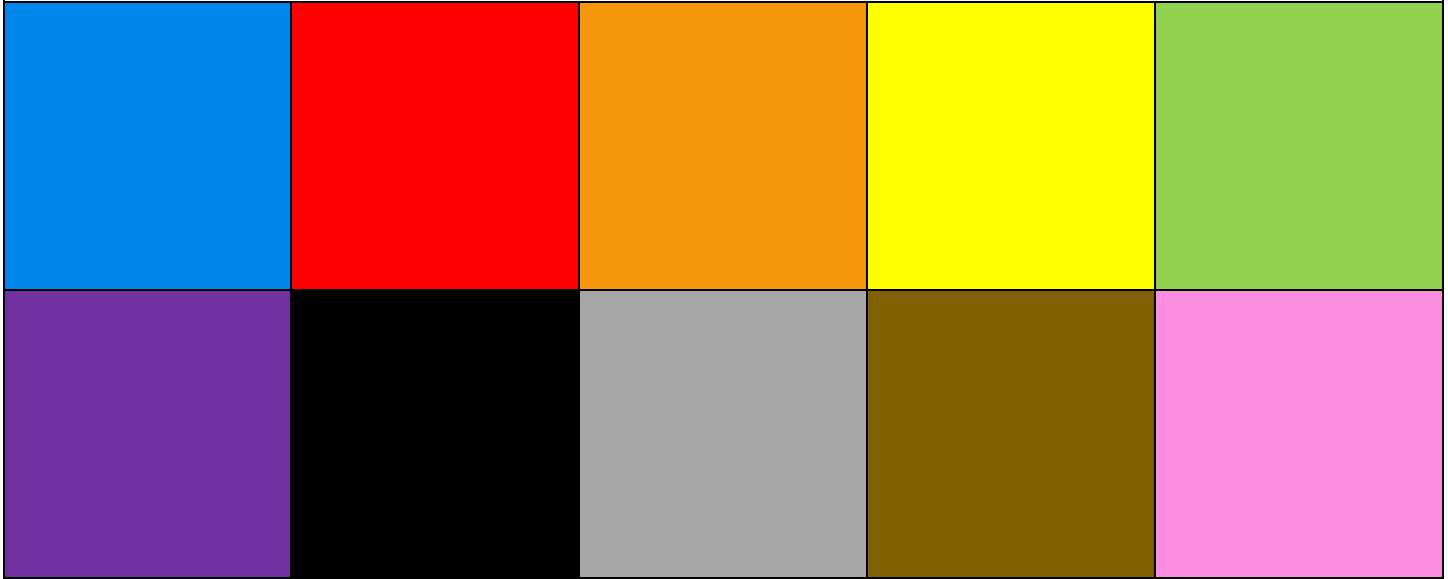






# Colors

(use an extra piece of paper for the color white)



Name necklace:



Write the letters of the name in the big rectangles. Fold the smaller rectangle over on the back and tape shut to make a loop to put the yarn through to make the necklace.



# Colors

**Skill needed:** Know the names of 11 colors: red, yellow, blue, green, purple, orange, black, white, brown, pink and gray.

Colors are a way children observe and categorize what they see. These very recognizable characteristics encourage children to define and organize the diverse world around them. Color is one of the first ways your preschooler makes distinctions among things they see; color words are some of the first words they use to describe these things.

## **I Spy**

Play “I Spy” around your house and let your child find objects with different colors. Or make your own “I Spy” book. Cut out pictures from magazines or books and glue them on the pages. Then flip through the book and let your child pick out the different colored items.

## **Ribbon dancing with colored streamers**

Purchase some colored streamers from a party store and let your child have fun ribbon dancing with their colored streamer.

## **Play a color matching game**

Make your own colored cards out of construction paper. Place several cards on the floor or table and let them pick the cards with matching colors.

## **Make your own fishing game**

Take construction paper and cut papers into fish shapes. Put a paper clip on each paper fish. Then get a wood craft stick and tie a string to it. Attach a magnetic strip to the end of the string. Have your child catch different colored fish.

## **Play hide and go seek**

Cut up construction paper clues (or use different colored toys) and hide them. Ask your child to find all of the clues that are a certain color.

## **Read a book**

There are numerous children’s books to teach children about color. One favorite is Eric Carle’s “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?”

## **Give choices**

Ask them if they would like to wear the blue shirt or the red shirt. Do they want to play with the yellow car or the purple truck?

## **Colors Treasure hunt game**

Fill a bucket with sand and hide different colored objects in the sand. Have your child dig through the sand to find the right colored objects.

## **Coloring pages**

Practice colors by simply having your child color in a coloring book. Ask your child what color crayons they are using while they color.

## **Color matching memory games**

Based off the typical matching game of remembering where two like cards are to make a pair, preschool children have to compare colors and match the same ones together to win.

## **Play games**

Many games use color in part to make them attractive to children while teaching them about color. The classic children’s game, Candyland, is often a child’s first board game because of its use of color.

# Letter Knowledge

**Skills needed:** Know the name of most capital and lowercase letters and some of the sounds.

Letter knowledge refers to knowing that letters are different from each other and knowing letter names and the sounds they make. Letter knowledge helps children discover the code of reading and writing words. If children start school with some letter knowledge, they will have a greater likelihood of:

- Mastering grade level phonics instruction
- Learning to read and write easily
- Becoming fluent readers

## **Sing the ABC Song**

Sing the alphabet song together each morning when you're getting your child dressed. Then have them sing it while pointing at each letter of the alphabet.

## **Start with Their Own Name**

The most meaningful letters to your child are the ones they see in their own name. Write their name everywhere you can, such as on their drink cups and backpacks, or put the letters of their name on the wall of their bedroom. It's important for them to see the letters of their name written often. Use a capital letter at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest of the name.

## **Keep Track of the Letters**

Be aware of the letters and letter sounds your child knows. This can be as simple as writing down the alphabet on a small piece of paper and making a check next to each letter your child recognizes. Put a smiley face next to the letter if she can tell you the sound and a squiggly line if she knows how to write it!

## **Point Out Letters**

Point to individual letters you see on cereal boxes, signs at the store or while driving and ask them to tell you what they are. Then describe the letter shape: "That's the letter 'p', it has a big line and a little curve."

## **Magnetic Letters**

With a set of magnetic letters, pull out three different letters, like "T", "N" and "S" and place them on the refrigerator or a large baking sheet. Ask your child to point to the N. If they don't know, take away one of the letters, to make it easier. Once they point to the N, have them use their finger to trace its shape. "Look! The N, you draw a big line down, then another big line down and then up."

## **Palm Reading**

While waiting in line, draw a letter using your fingertip on your child's open hand. Can he tell you what it is? Write the letter again until he can "read" it. Have him then write a letter on your hand!

## **Guess My Letter**

Tell your child a letter sound and have them guess the name of the letter that matches. "The letter I'm thinking of makes the "sssss" sound. What letter is it?"

## **Alphabet Books**

At the beginning, make sure alphabet books are clean and simple, so they can focus on the letter shapes. Later they are ready for more sophisticated alphabet books that play with letter shapes, letter sounds, and vocabulary!

