



Kindergarten Readiness

Home Activity Series

October 2020 Activities

ACTIVITY #1: Cutting Play-Doh™

Go to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten to watch a demonstration of this activity.

Materials needed:

- Container of Play-Doh™ (included in your packet)
- Child-sized scissors

Directions:

1. Open the container of Play-Doh™ that came in your packet. Remove the Play-Doh™ and allow your child to spend time squishing, pinching, and shaping it. Manipulating the clay is a fun sensory activity. Ask your child questions, such as, "Does the Play-Doh™ have a smell?" or "How does it feel?" These questions not only encourage your child to think about what they are doing with their hands, but also help to develop descriptive vocabulary.
2. Ask your child to try to roll the clay on the table into a snake shape, or a long rope. Go to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten for a demonstration video.
3. Review the proper way to hold the scissors before cutting. Go to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten for a demonstration video.
4. Then ask your child to use the scissors to snip the Play-Doh™ rope into tiny chunks.
5. Have your child gather all the bits of clay and squish them together again. Continue to make and cut clay ropes as long as your child is interested. Try making some ropes thicker and others thinner for different cutting experiences.



Why We Do This:

- Hand muscles develop strength when working with clay or dough.
- Cutting develops eye-hand coordination, and the opening and closing motion of cutting with scissors helps children develop the small muscles in their hands. These muscles are crucial for holding a pencil or crayons and gripping and manipulating objects.
- Being able to use scissors is an important skill. Teachers have noticed that some kindergarteners begin school with little or no experience in cutting with scissors.
- Cutting through Play-Doh™ clay offers children an opportunity to practice the open-close motion of scissors with a different resistance than paper. It also allows them to focus just on the cutting action without following a line.



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ACTIVITY #2: Match the Rhyming Words Worksheet

Directions:

1. If the concept of rhyming words is new to your child, explain that rhyming words have the same sound at the END of the word. Read these examples of words that do NOT rhyme aloud to your child, emphasizing the “r” sound at the beginning: ROCK, RAKE, ROPE.

Point out to your child that the sound at the BEGINNING of these words is the same because they start with the same letter. Have your child point to that same letter at the beginning of each word. Can your child name that letter? These do NOT rhyme, because rhyming words have the same sound at the END of the word. Pronounce the ending sound of each of these words: “ock,” “ake,” “ope”. Ask your child: “Can you hear how those do not sound the same?”

Here are some words that DO rhyme. Read them aloud to your child, emphasizing the “ock” sound at the end of each word: ROCK, SOCK, BLOCK. Ask your child: “Can you hear how the sound at the end of these words is the same?”

Point out to your child that the letters at the end of these words are the same, which is why the sound at the end of the words is the same too. These words DO rhyme.

Sometimes words will rhyme even if the letters at the end of the word are not the same, like THREW and BLUE. Words rhyme if the sound at the end of the words is the same, no matter what letters make the sound.

2. Point to the pictures on the worksheet and have your child name each one: down the left side, they are SLED, HAT, DOG, GUITAR, BALL, SHELL, and down the right side they are LOG, STAR, BED, BELL, CAT, DOLL.
3. Have your child name a picture on the left side, then locate a picture on the right side whose name rhymes with it. Have them draw a line with a crayon or pencil connecting the two rhyming pictures. Help them to hold their writing tool correctly as they do this. Go to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten for a demonstration video.

Connect all the rhyming pictures on the worksheet.

Why We Do This:

Rhyming teaches children how language works. It helps them notice and work with the sounds within words. Rhyming is important for writing, too. It can help children understand that words that share common sounds often share common letters.



ACTIVITY #3: Shape Line Patterns Worksheet

Directions:

1. Point to the first row of shapes on the worksheet. Have your child name the shapes as you point to them: “Triangle, triangle, circle. Triangle, triangle, circle.” The shapes are in a pattern that repeats: two triangles, then a circle. Point to the empty space at the end of the first row of shapes. Ask your child: “If the pattern would keep going, what would be here?” If necessary, have your child name the shapes aloud again as you point to each until your child realizes that a triangle would come next. Have your child draw a triangle in the empty space.
2. Repeat this process with each row. Notice that in the third row, the shapes are the same and only the size differs, so the pattern is, “little circle, big circle, little circle, big circle...” In the fourth row, it is the orientation of the shapes that differs: “right-side up triangle, right-side up triangle, upside-down triangle...”
3. In the last row, your child can draw a shape pattern of their own. Tell them to not use more than two or three shapes so they can make their pattern repeat.

Why We Do This:

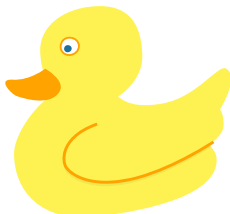
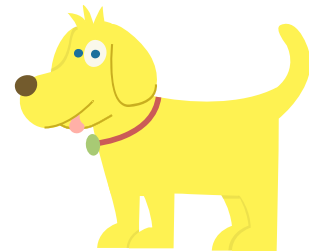
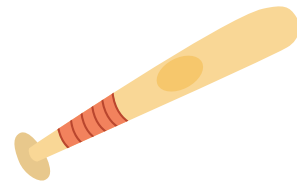
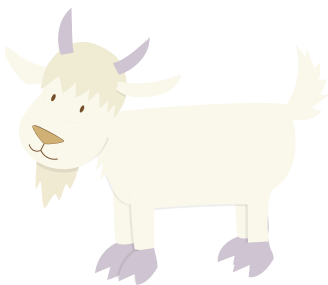
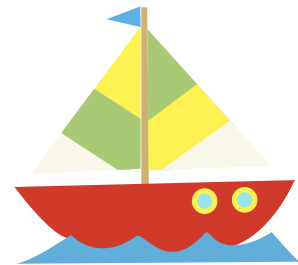
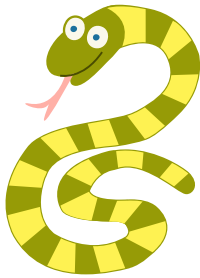
Children are expected to enter kindergarten able to recognize and name basic shapes. Being able to draw them, however imperfectly, is a bonus.

Being able to recognize and duplicate a pattern is a math skill.

Visit www.smfpl.org/kindergarten
every month for additional stories, songs, and video tips.

Match the Rhyming Words

Draw a line connecting the rhyming objects.

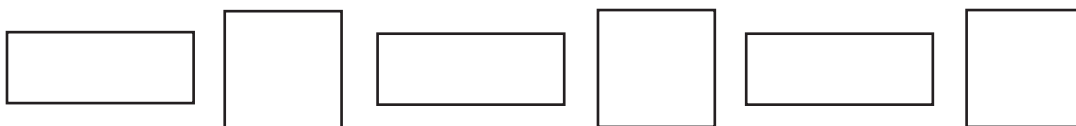
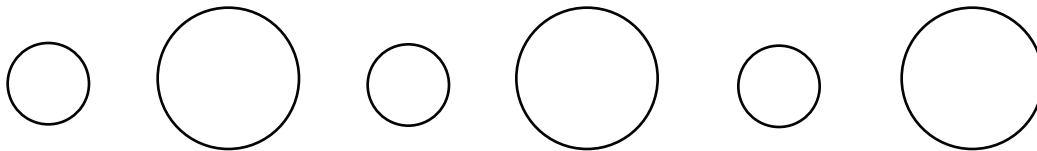
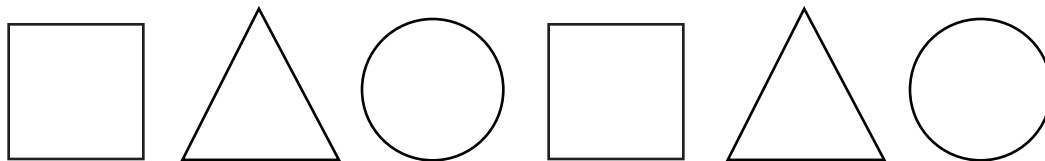




Let's go on a
Shape Safari!

Shape Line Patterns

Finish each pattern below by drawing the shape that comes next. After you finish all the patterns, create a pattern of your own!



Draw your own pattern in the space below!

