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Toys and Games To Make and Play With Your Child

Michigan State University

Cooperative Extension Service

Eileen M. Earhart, Family and Child Sciences, Michigan State University

March 1984

106 pages

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# TOYS AND GAMES TO MAKE AND PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

Eileen M. Earhart

Department of Family and Child Ecology  
Michigan State University

Extension Bulletin E-1036

March 1984

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



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## Introduction

Favorite toys and games bring happy memories to everyone. The fun of playing with parents and other members of the family is a "special" memory. The toys and games pictured and described in this book are planned for parents and children to play with together. The young child needs to play with others to learn how to become a member of a group. Learning to take turns and follow rules of a game are behaviors which help the child get along with other children and in school. Parents are teaching their children these skills when they play games with them.

The preschool child can learn many other skills by playing with toys and games. Many of these skills will be very useful when he later is ready to read, write and work with numbers. Parents can help their young children learn how things feel, what they look like, and what sounds they make. For example, one of the toys in this book



is a set of bean bags. A variety of fabrics such as corduroy, terry cloth, toweling, and knits is suggested in the directions. The child can learn that the fabrics feel different if the parents help by having the child feel the fabrics and talk about the softness, smooth feeling or rough texture. The bean bags are made in different shapes such as a circle, triangle and square, so the child can learn about shapes. If some of the bean bags are made larger than others, the child can also learn about differences in size. By pointing out differences in colors and designs, parents can help the child carefully look at the bean bags in another way. Learning to notice the details of objects and pictures is one of the most important skills the child can develop. The young child who learns to observe the details and note the differences of toys or pictures is likely to later use this skill when he

looks at letters, numbers, words and sentences.

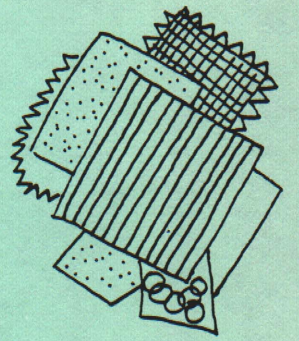
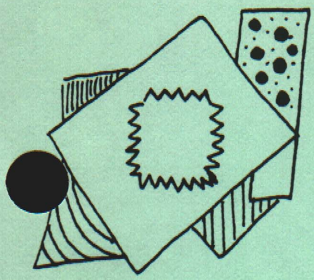
The bean bags are used in a game where a coffee can, a pie-pan or a box is the target. The child develops coordination skill by throwing the bean bag at one of these targets. Larger targets are used in the beginning. As the child becomes more skilled, smaller targets can be used. By playing the bean bag game, the child is developing skills which are used in many games older children frequently play such as dodge ball, soft ball and bowling. Parents can add interest to the games by finding different targets around the house.

The toys and games in this book have been made by parents of preschool children who had attended a series of meetings for the purpose of making toys for their own children. The parents enjoyed making the games and toys. They especially enjoyed the responses of their children to the toy or game

that mother or dad made for them. The parents who made the toys and games at the group meetings shared their experiences in using the toys and games at the next meeting.

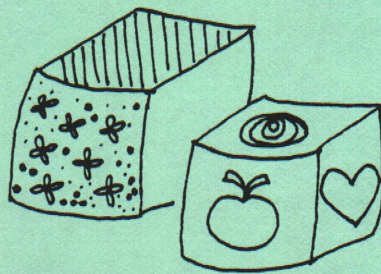
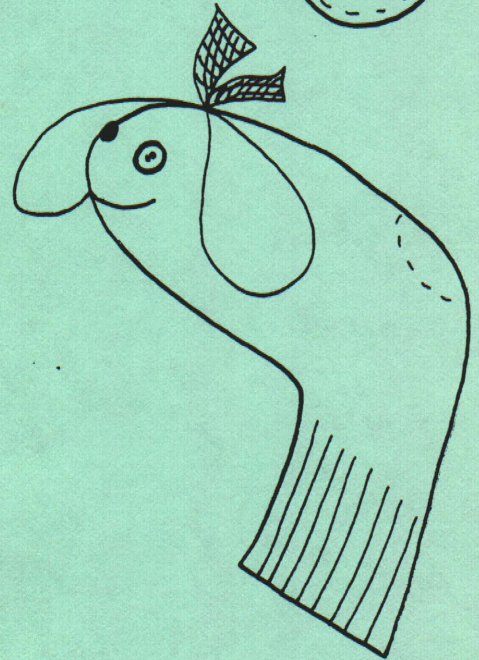
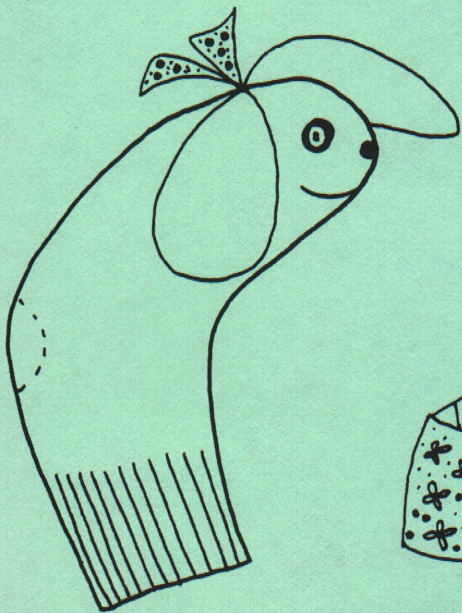
Learning should be fun. Toys and games provide opportunities to learn and have fun at the same time. The child learns about the world through play.

Parents make a real difference in how much the child learns. By playing with the child, a parent can increase both the learning and the fun for the child. The toys and games in this book have been designed to help parents with their teaching role.



FABRIC

PIECES





## LET'S MAKE A SOFT BALL

Why? A soft ball is easy to catch.  
A soft ball is easy to throw.  
Our soft ball has sides of  
different colors and designs.



Each side feels  
different.  
A soft ball can be  
washed.  
Your eyes and hands  
work together  
when you play  
with a ball.

### To do:

Have fun playing ball with your child:  
toss the ball to him--  
he throws the ball back to you.  
He learns to catch and throw.

Talk with your child about the  
colors and designs.

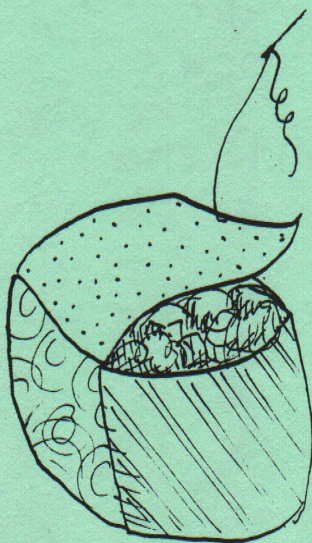
Feel the different sides.

To make the ball:

1. Cut six pieces of material, using the pattern. Use different pieces of fabric with different textures.
2. Sew the pieces together until only one side is open.



3. Turn the seams inside and stuff the ball with nylon hose or foam rubber.



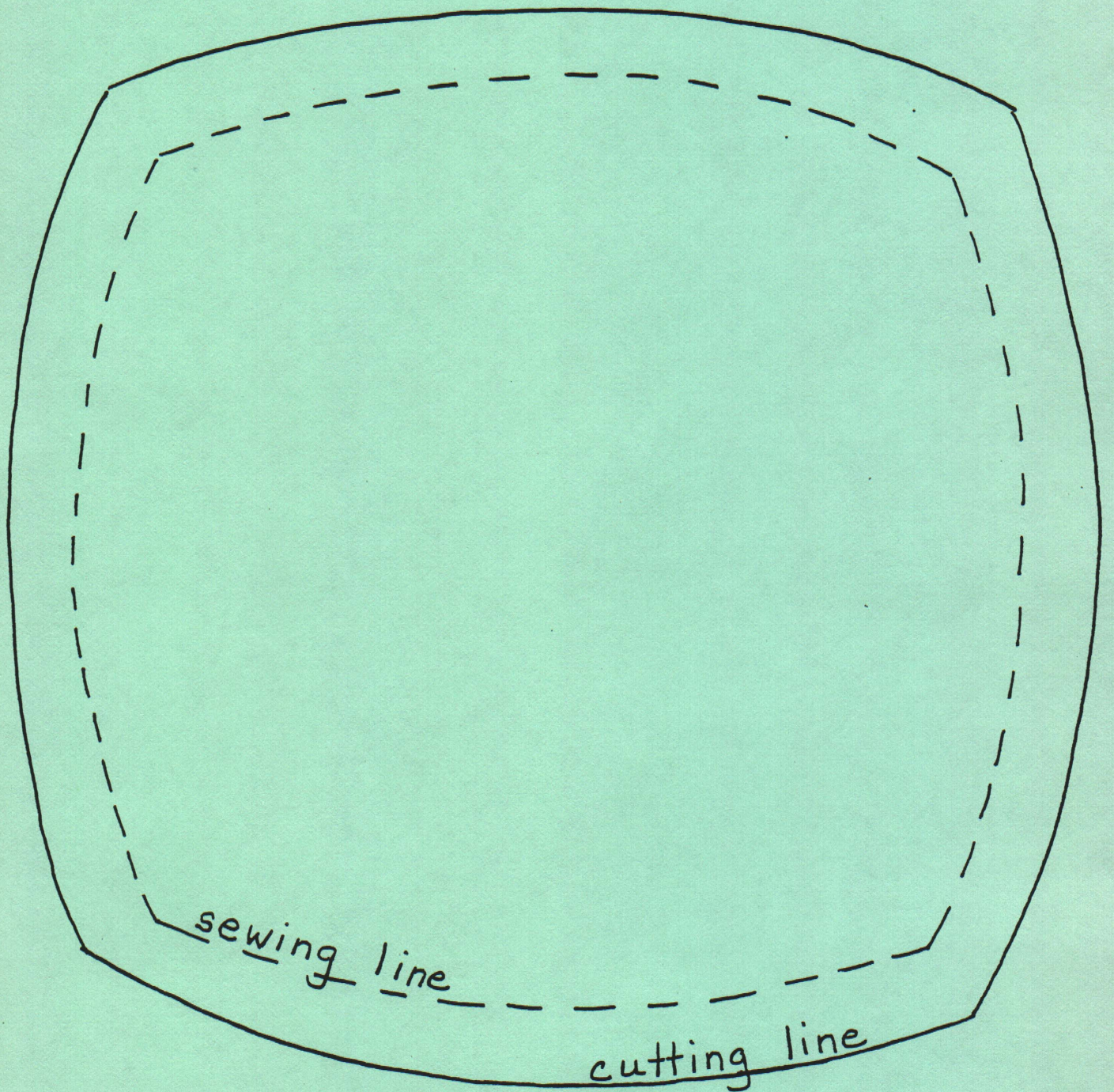
4. Hand stitch the last seam to close the opening.

8.

## Pattern for Big Soft Ball

Cut six pieces

Use different fabric textures.





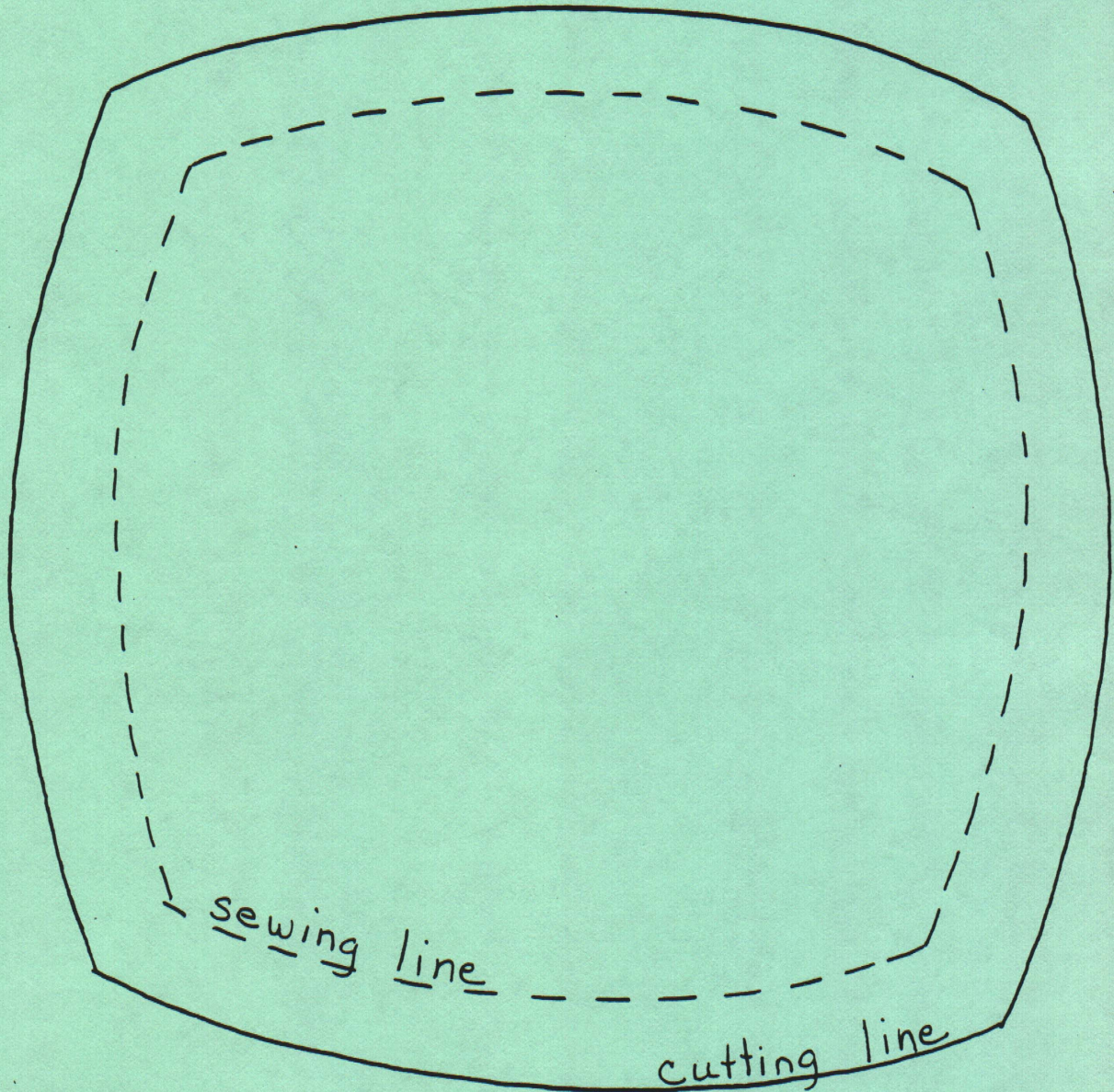


9.

## Pattern for Small Soft Ball

Cut six pieces.

Use different fabric textures.



Suggested fabrics:

velveteen

duck

denim

corduroy

knit

velour

terry cloth

broadcloth



## LET'S MAKE SOCK PUPPETS

### Why?

Children have always loved puppets.  
Children enjoy listening to puppets  
talk.

Children enjoy talking to puppets.

Children enjoy playing with puppets.

### You can:

Make the puppet talk with your child.

-talk about friends or toys or school  
or colors.

Read a story!                      Count things!

OR ask simple questions.

OR make your child laugh

(puppets are funny!!)

See if your child can work the puppet:  
make another puppet so that you both  
have one!

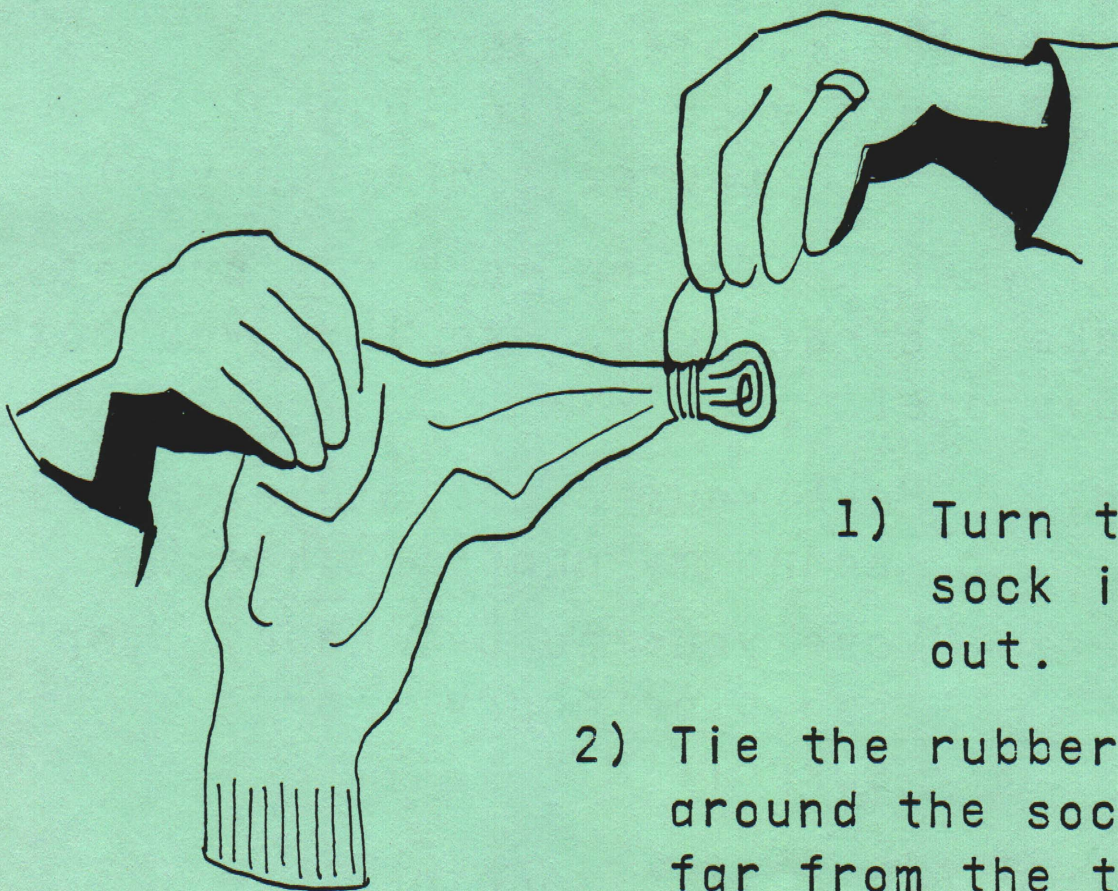
Say: "Have your puppet make the  
sound my puppet makes."

"Make your puppet happy...or  
sad...or angry...or  
surprised."

OR: Take a trip together!

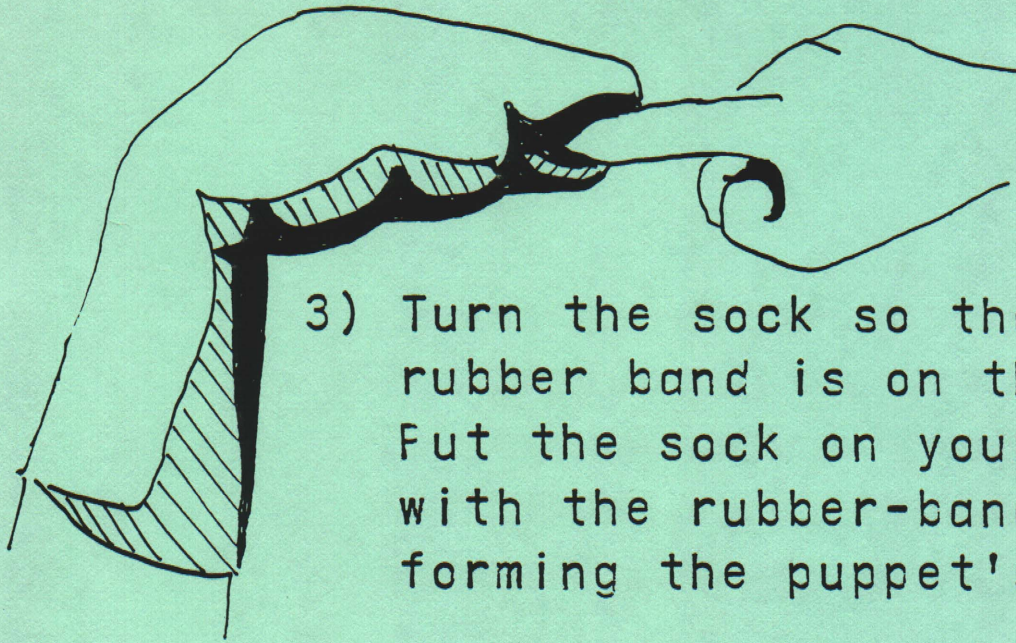
To Make our puppet we will need:

a sock,  
rubber band,  
straight pins,  
2 medium or big buttons  
(that are the same),  
2 little buttons (that are  
the same),  
scissors,  
needle and thread,  
And, felt scraps.



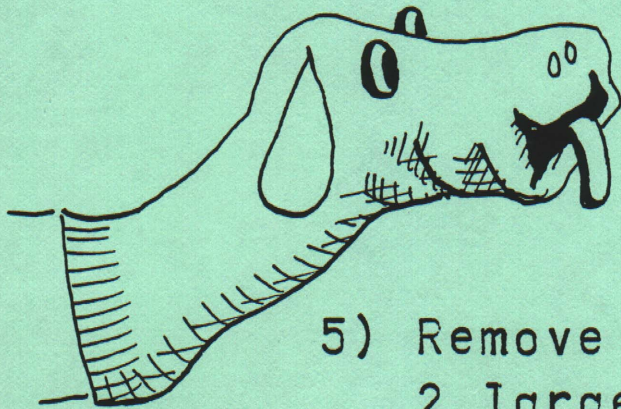
1) Turn the  
sock inside  
out.

2) Tie the rubber band  
around the sock, not  
far from the toe.



3) Turn the sock so that the rubber band is on the inside. Put the sock on your hand with the rubber-banded part forming the puppet's mouth.

4) Now mark where the ears and eyes and nose will go with the straight pins.



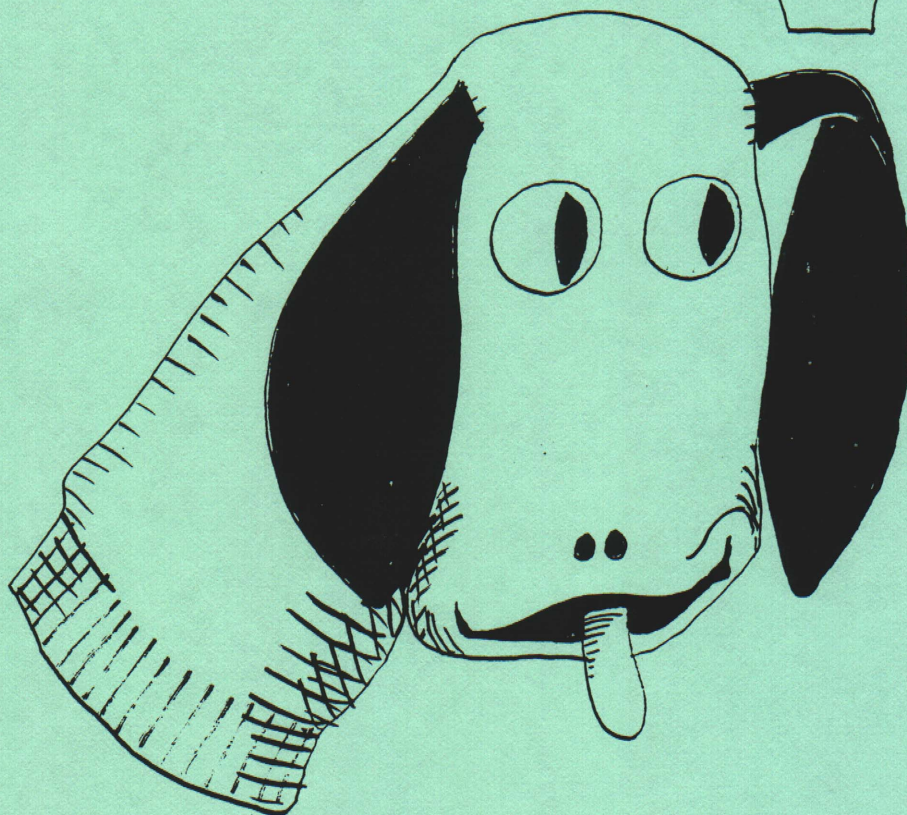
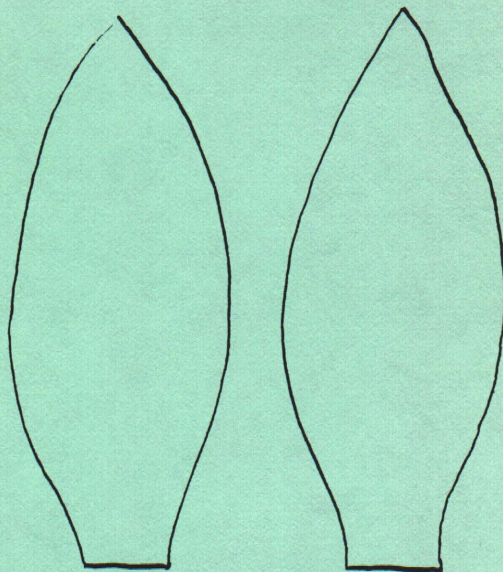
5) Remove sock and sew on the 2 large buttons for eyes and the two small buttons for nostrils.

And, 6) Cut out the tongue and 2 ears from felt scraps and sew them on. Use the patterns.



13.

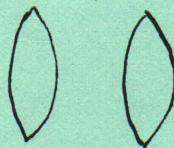
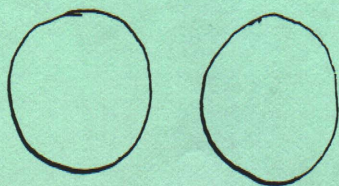
Ear patterns.



tongue  
pattern



And, patterns for felt eyes  
(if you choose not to use buttons):



(nostrils)



HAVE FUN!





## LET'S MAKE BEAN BAGS

### Why?

A bean bag is easy to catch.

A bean bag is easy to throw.

Our bean bags are different sizes and shapes.

They are different colors.

Our eyes and our hands work together when we play with a bean bag.

### You can:

Have fun playing with the bean bags with your child.

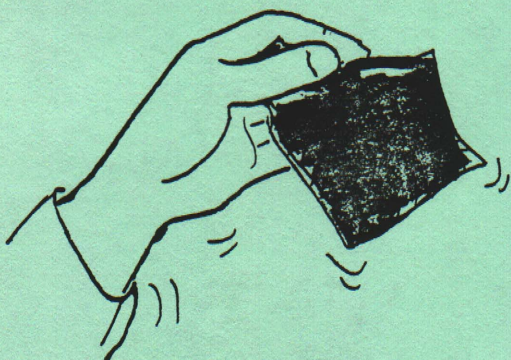
You can play catch!

You can talk with your child about the colors, shapes (circle, square, and triangle) and sizes (big, little).

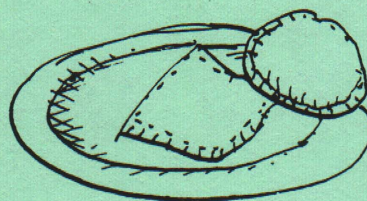
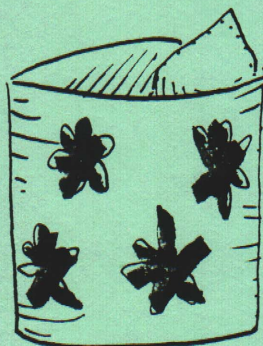
You can have your child show you all the squares, triangles, or circles; OR all the bean bags that are the same color; OR the biggest or smallest of each shape.

You can play the Bean Bag Game!

Toss the bean bags at targets.



Use a can with bright paper covering it.

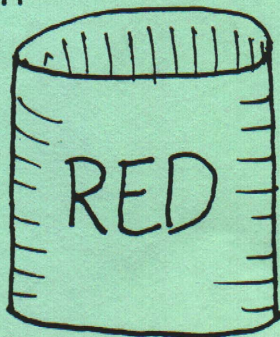


or use a pie plate

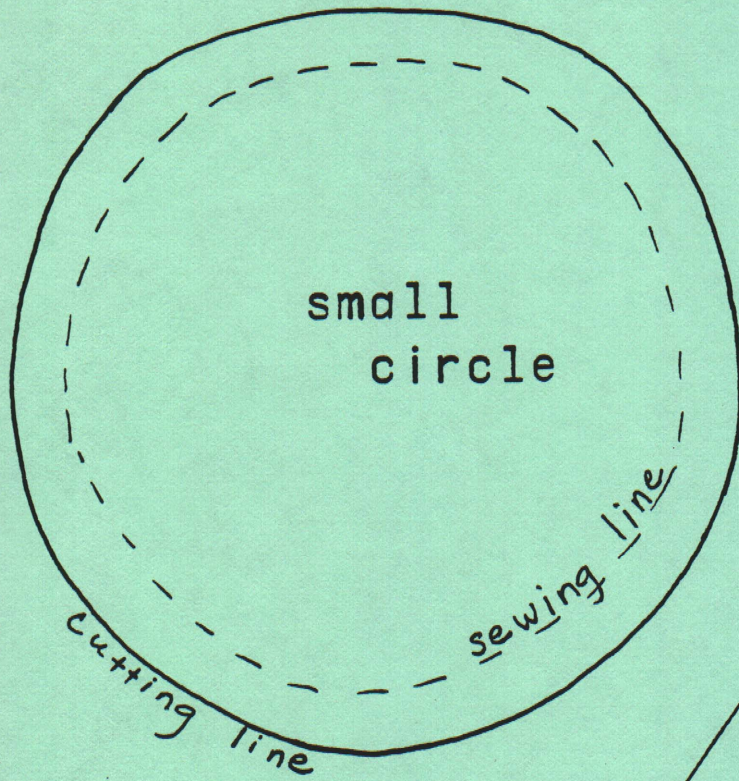


or use a wastebasket!

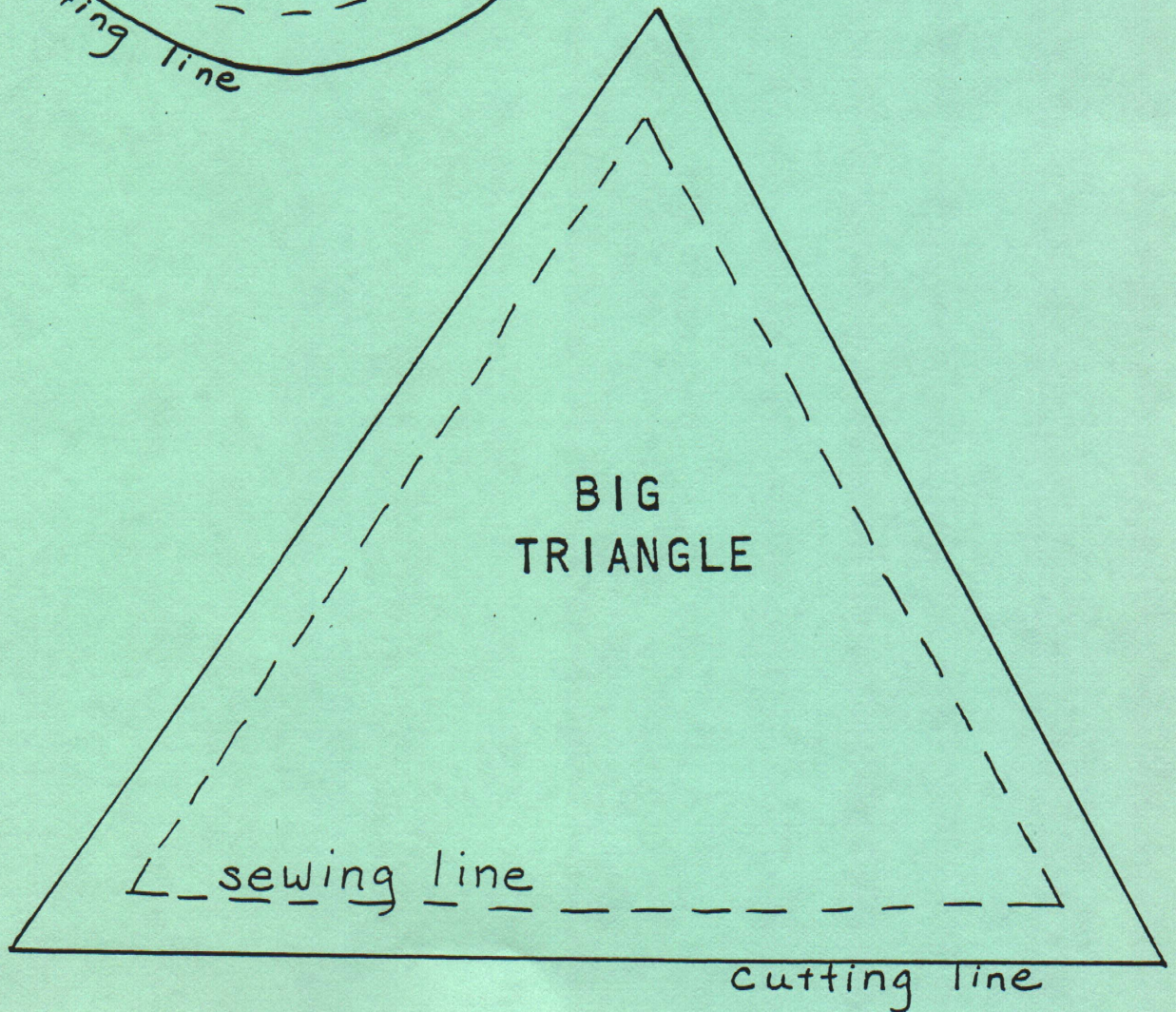
or throw each color into a different sized can!



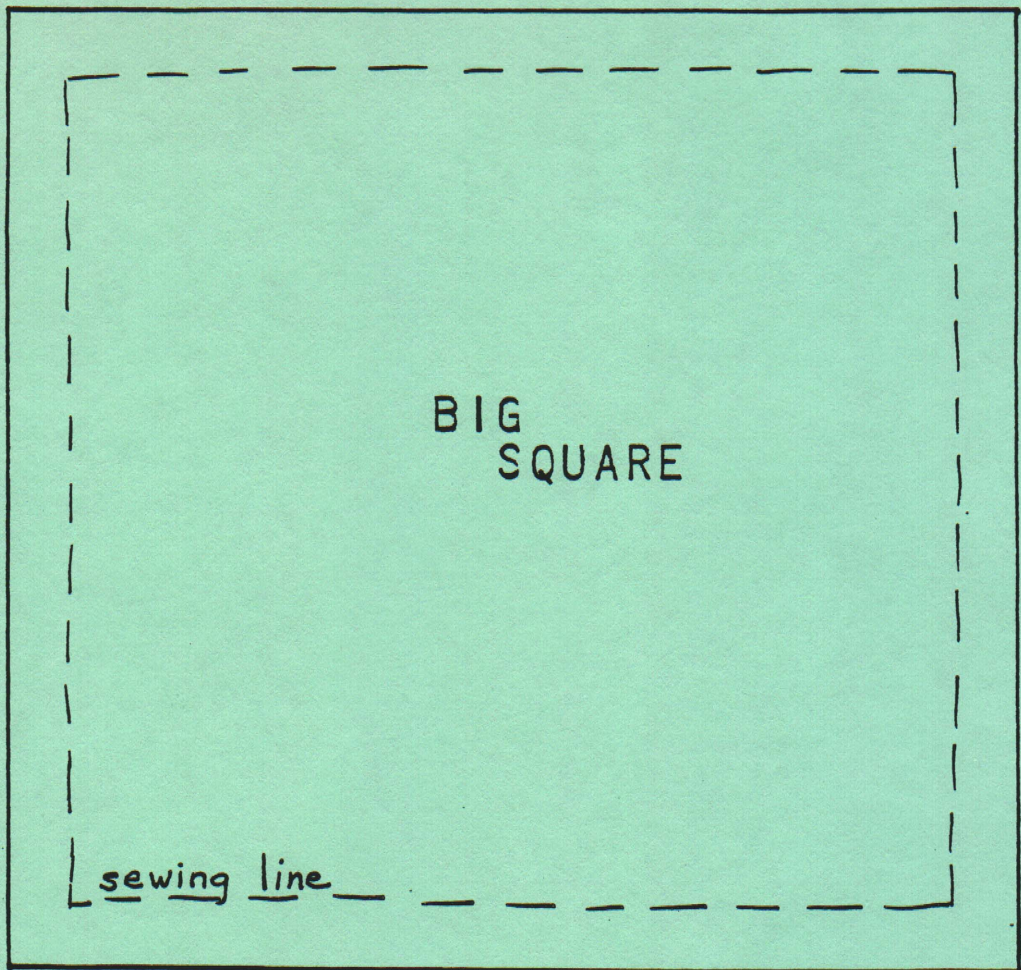
BEAN BAGS:



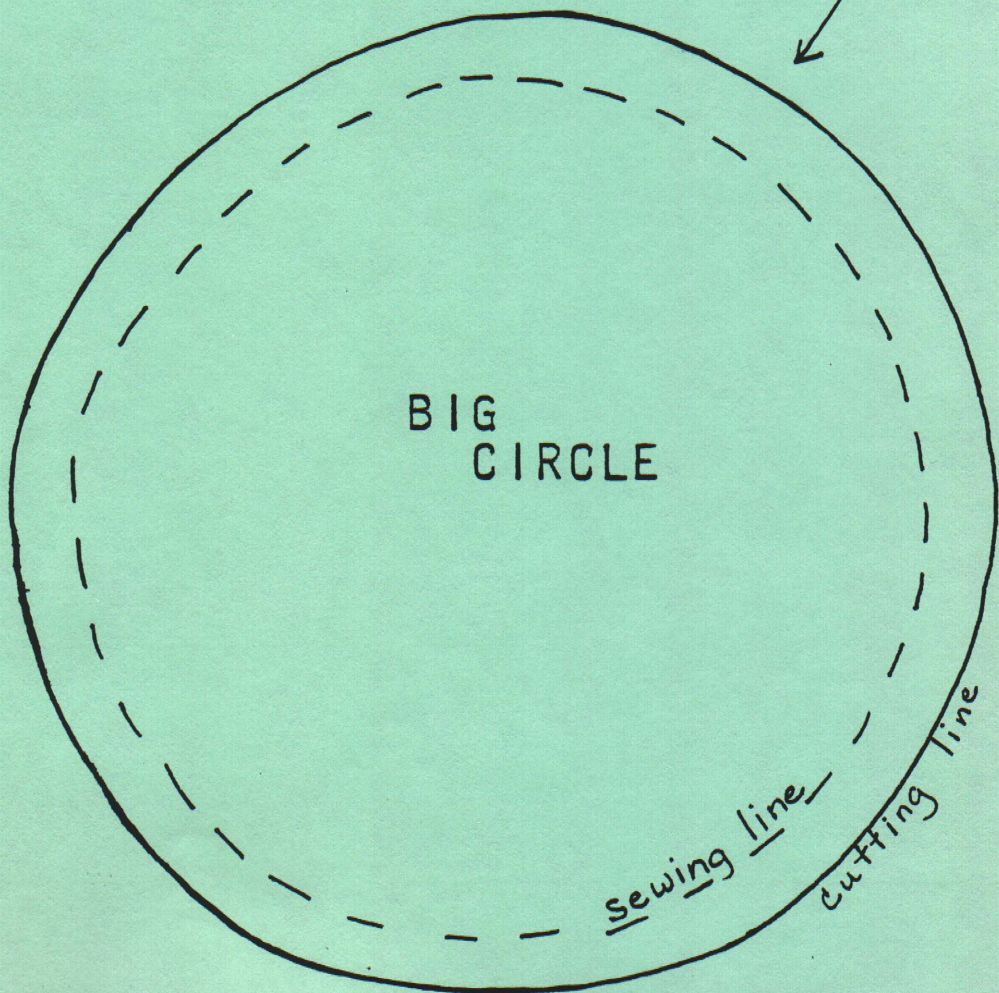
CUT 2  
OF EACH  
PATTERN.





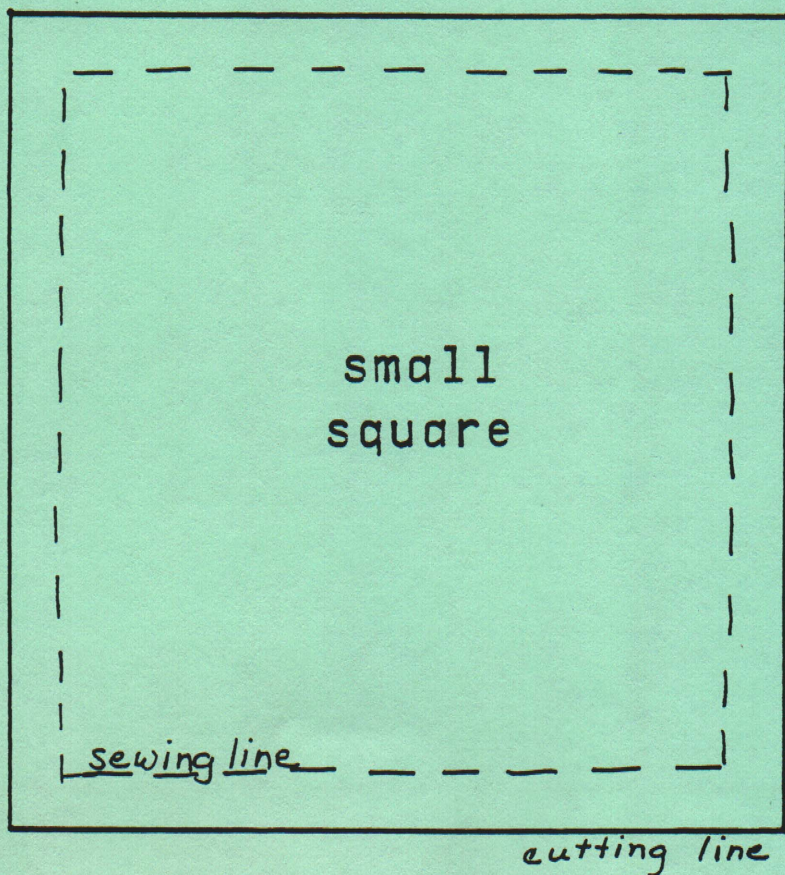
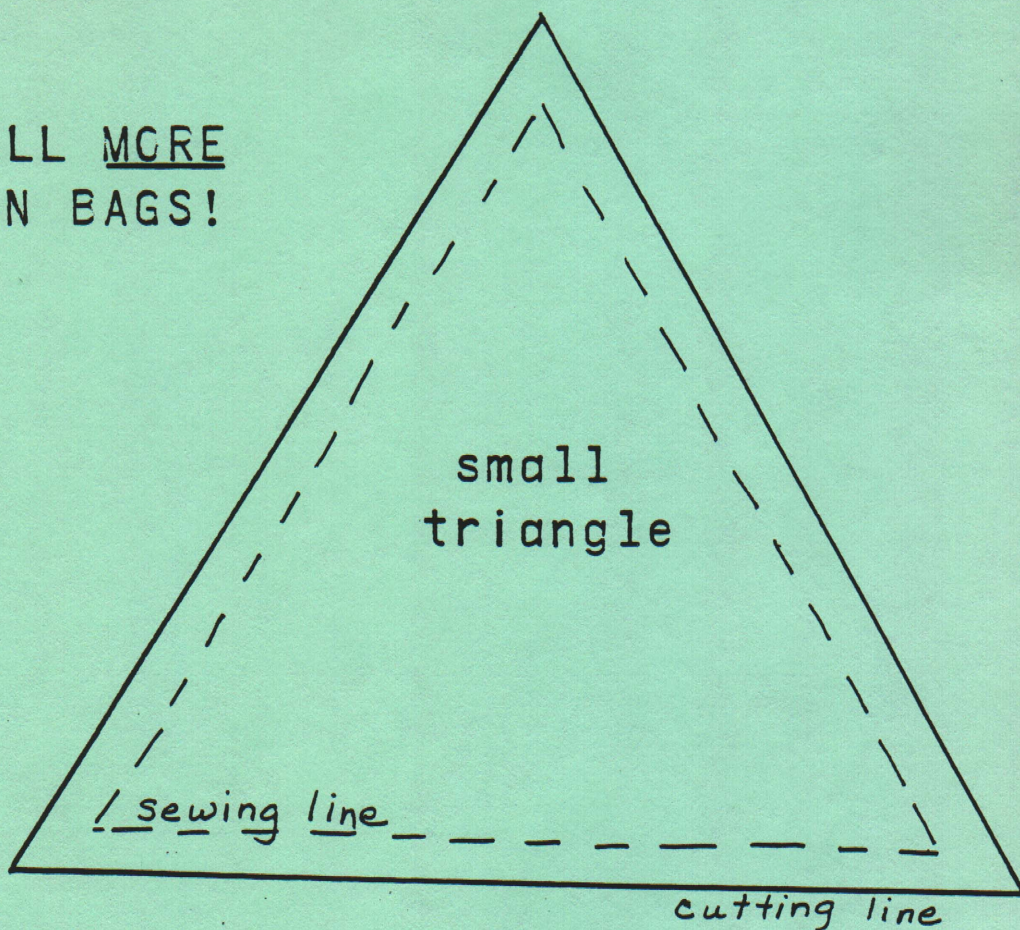


M  
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AND,  
STILL MORE  
BEAN BAGS!



CUT  
TWC  
OF  
EACH





## BUTTON PERSON OR ANIMAL

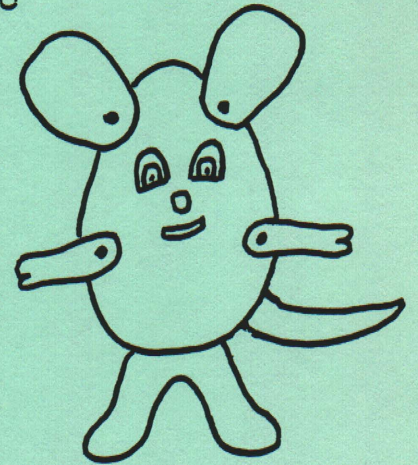
### Why:

Your child will learn to use buttons and/or snaps.

Your child will learn the parts of the body and where they are located.

Your child will enjoy putting the parts together.

You and your child can play together with the button person or animal.



### You can:

Let your child play with and hold the animal or person which is fastened together. Talk about the different body parts such as arms, legs, head, and body.

Let your child practice fastening and unfastening the buttons and snaps.

Make an animal or person with some body parts that fasten with buttons and some that fasten with snaps (the snaps will be harder

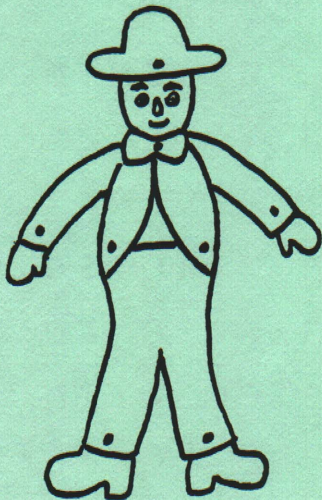
to fasten so you might want the most important body parts--the arms and legs and head to button on and the hands and feet could snap on).

Unfasten all the body parts and help your child put the animal or person together and name all the parts. Your child may be able to put all the parts together without your help. Your interest in the activity will encourage your child. You may want to take turns fastening a leg, arm or head to the body.

Make both a person and an animal.

Put the parts in a box or paper bag. Keep the body of each out of the bag. Take turns pulling

out a part. Decide which body the part goes with. When all parts are chosen, put the animal and person together.



How to make:

You need: felt pieces  
 buttons -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or larger  
 scissors  
 thread  
 glue: to attach eyes,  
 nose, and mouth.

## To make:

Cut out pattern pieces or design a pattern of your own.

Pin pattern pieces on the felt.

A combination of colors makes a more attractive completed animal or person.

Cut felt pieces for each pattern piece.

Sew or glue together the two thicknesses of felt for the head, body, arms, legs and other parts.

Cut on the lines (—) for the buttonholes. Sew or glue around the buttonholes to make them stronger.

Sew buttons where indicated ((••)).

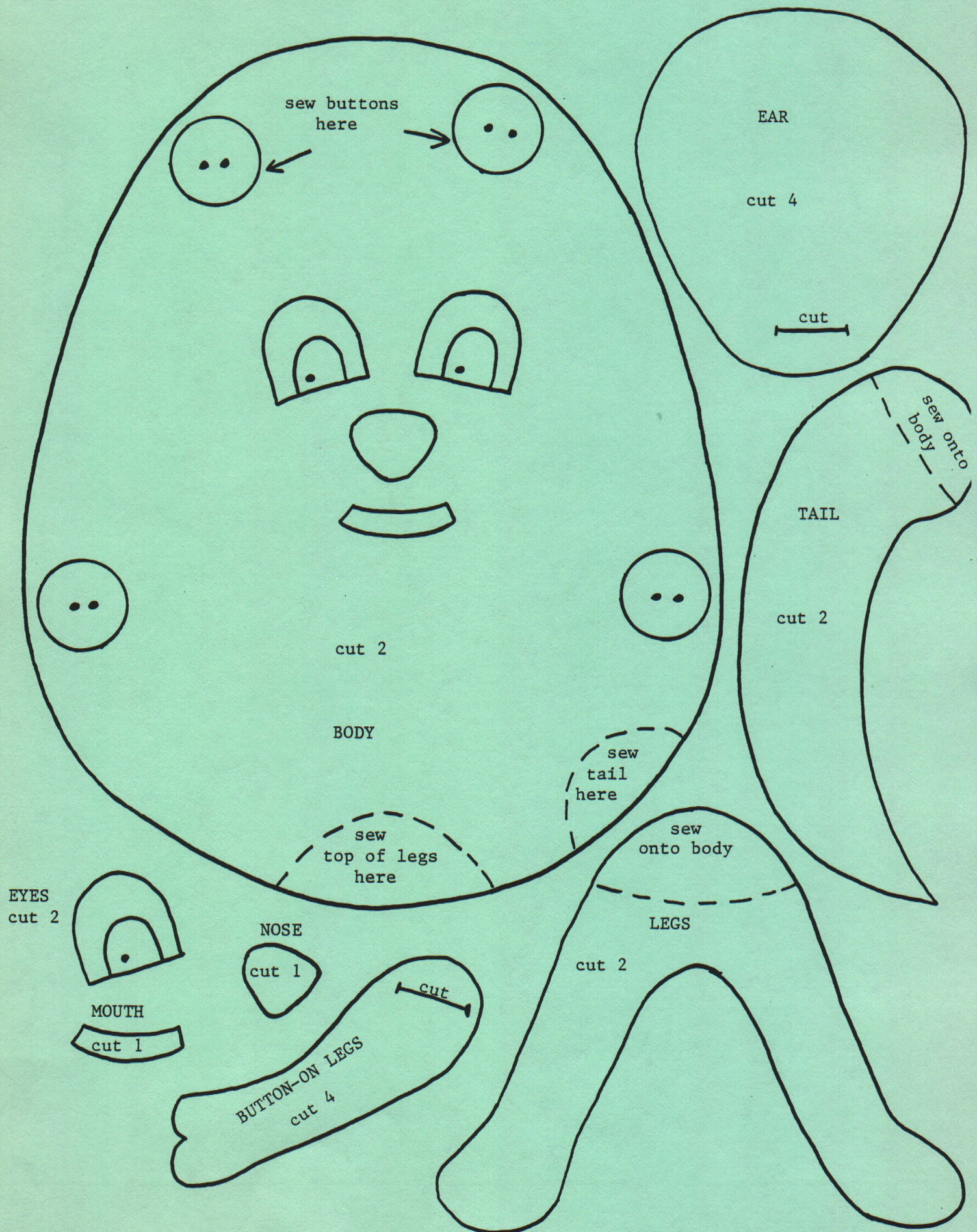
22.

Cut out other felt pieces for eyes, nose and mouth. Glue the pieces onto the head or body as shown on the pattern pieces.

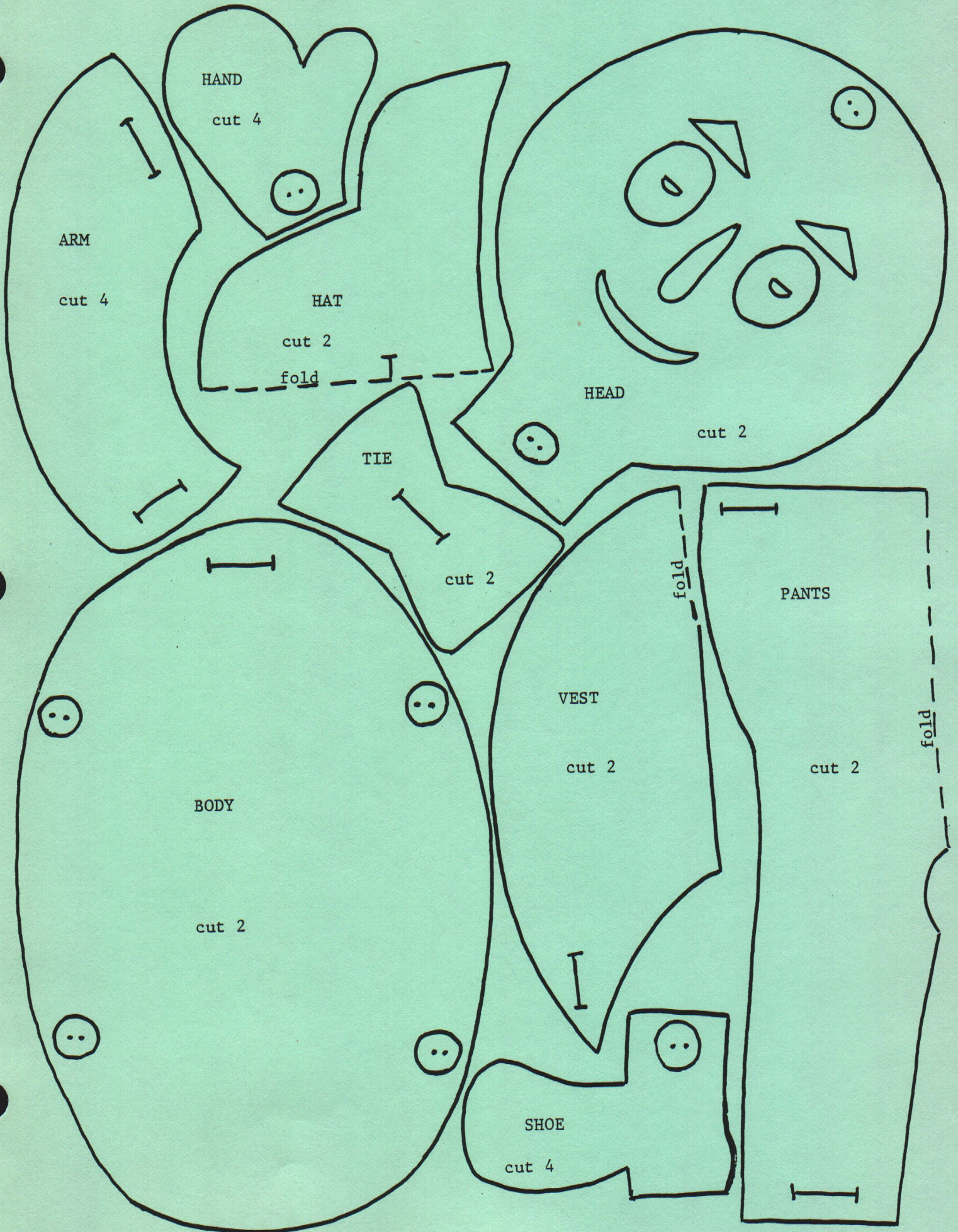
Eutton the parts together to make the whole animal or person.

# BUTTON MOUSE PATTERN

23.



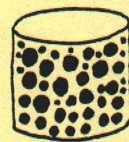
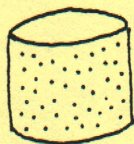
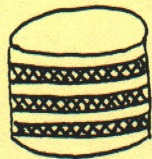




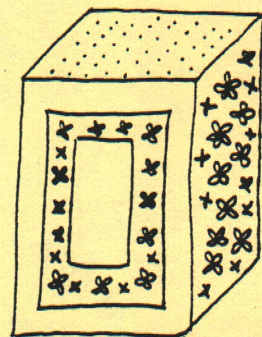
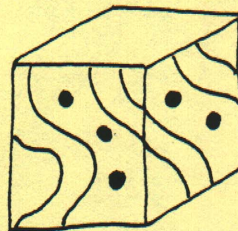
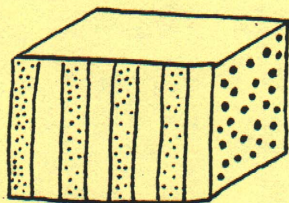
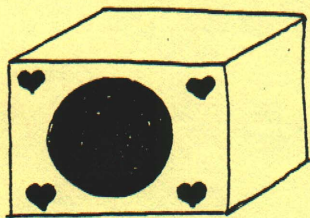




# CANS



# BOXES



LIDS AND . . .

.CONTAINERS



## SHAKERS

### Why?

Children can "keep the beat" to music with them.

Children learn to hear how different shakers sound alike or different.

A child can repeat sound patterns.

### You Can -

Play a record and shake the shakers to the beat of the music.

Sing a song and keep the beat with the shakers.

Put different things in two shakers so they'll make different sounds and then shake them and see if your child can tell if they sound alike or different.

Shake your shaker three times; ask your child to do the same with his shaker. Try other patterns such as two fast and two slow shakes or one slow and three fast shakes.

### How to Make:

You need -

small plastic containers with snap on lids (like soft margarine

How to Make: (continued)

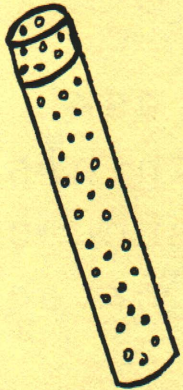
containers) or small plastic bottles (juice or cosmetic), or juice cans.

## To Make -

Fill container with rice, dried beans, paper clips, buttons, stones, water, salt, sand, anything that makes noise when you shake it.

Cover with colored contact paper so that the lid cannot be removed.

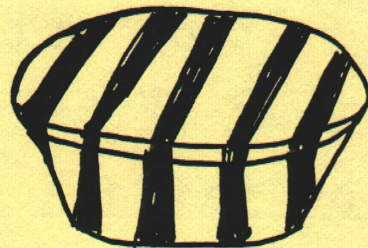
(If the lid can be taken off, the contents may be spilled.)



cosmetic  
bottle



juice  
can



margarine  
dish

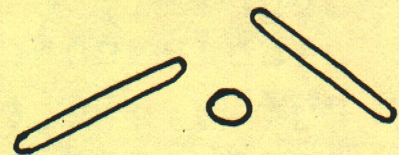
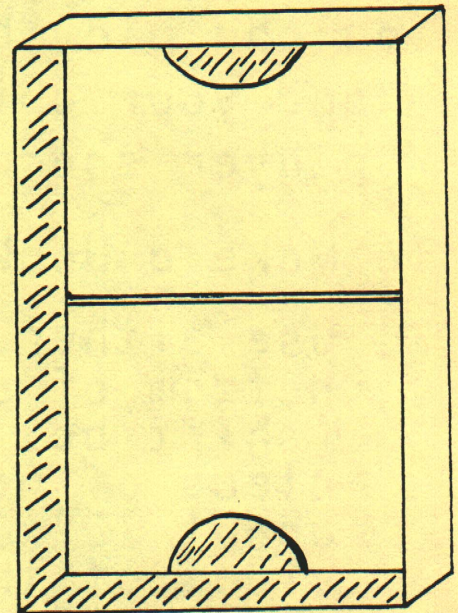
## HOCKEY GAME

### Why?

The hockey game is fun.  
You can play with your  
child.

Your child learns to  
count by keeping  
score.

Your child uses his  
hands and eyes  
together to push  
the disk into the  
goal.



### To Play:

Have fun playing hockey with your child.  
Each player uses a stick.

Put the disk or checker on the center  
line.

Take turns hitting the disk first.

Both players then try to hit the disk  
with their sticks.

Try to move the disk into the goal away  
from you.

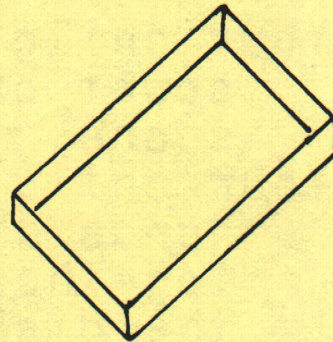
Do not let the disk go into the goal at  
your end.

You count one point each time the disk  
goes into the goal away from you.  
The other player counts a point when  
the disk goes into the goal at your  
end.

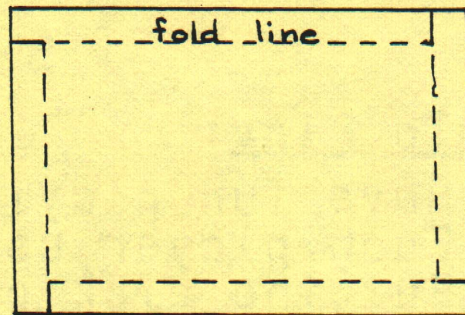
You can play hockey as long as you and your child wish, or until one player scores 5 points.

To Make a Hockey Game:

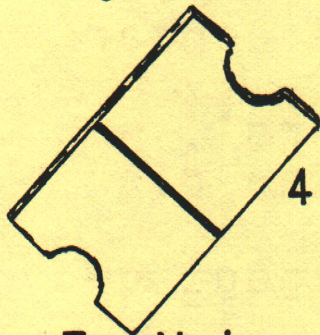
1. Use either the top or bottom of a 10"x15" box (shirt box size) or a piece of heavy paper about 13"x18". Fold the sides of the paper up about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to form a box. Glue or staple corners.



2. Cut a piece of heavy cardboard to fit tightly inside the box.



3. Cut half circles in the ends of the cardboard for the goals.



4. Paint the box and cardboard or cover them with colored contact paper.

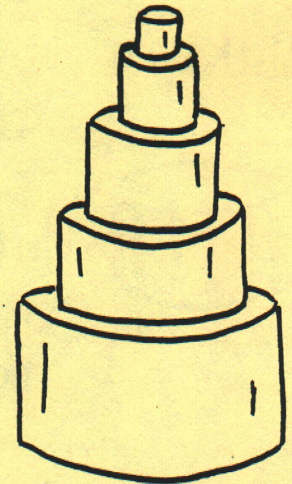
5. Make a line on the cardboard to mark the center between the goals.
6. Glue the board into the box.
7. Use popsicle sticks for hockey sticks.
8. Use a small, flat and round object for a disk.

## LET'S MAKE A TOWER

### Why?

Stacking the lids is fun.  
Your child learns about big  
and little sizes.

Your child learns to place  
the lids to make a tall  
tower.

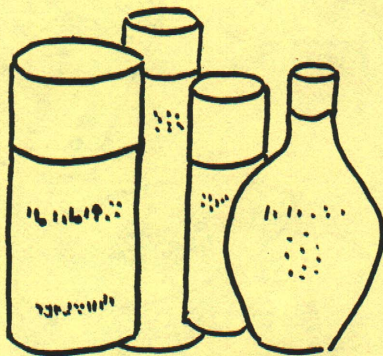


You can play the "what's missing"  
game with the lids.

### To Do:

Look at and talk about the lids with  
your child.

Use the biggest and the smallest lids  
to talk about "big" and "little".

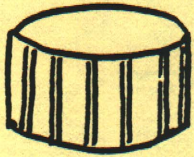


You can talk about the  
kinds of cans and  
bottles the lids  
came on.



## To Do with Lids:

Make a tower. Put the biggest lid on the table or floor with the flat side up. Then put the next biggest lid on top of the first one. Add the other lids to form a tower.



Play the "what's missing" game. Put two lids on the table. Talk about them describing the size and color. Cover the lids with a paper (and/or tell your child to close his/her eyes) while you take one away. Remove the paper (and open the eyes). Ask the child "what's missing". If your child can quickly name the missing lid, add a third one the next time.

## To Make:

Collect lids of various sizes. Cover the outside with colored contact paper. Add some stick-on colorful pictures on the tops of the lids.



## LET'S MAKE A FEEL BOX

### Why?

It is fun to guess!

We learn about the sense of touch.

We learn to explore and discover through our senses.

We learn about descriptive words, such as big or little, and hard or soft, and smooth or rough.

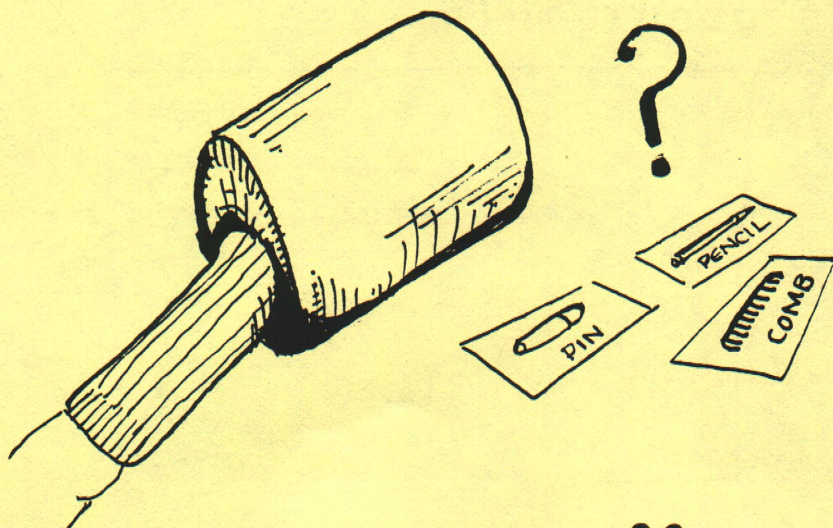
It is fun to play games together.

### You can:

Put one object in the Feel Box and have your child tell you what he/she feels...

ask questions - is it fuzzy?  
is it cold?  
is it heavy?  
what shape is it?

Put several cards with the pictures of the objects you have and ask the child which card has a picture of the object now in the "Feel Box".



Or put several objects in and ask the child to pick out one... "Give me the pencil."

You need: a can (coffee can is fine)  
 a stretchy sock  
 some small objects

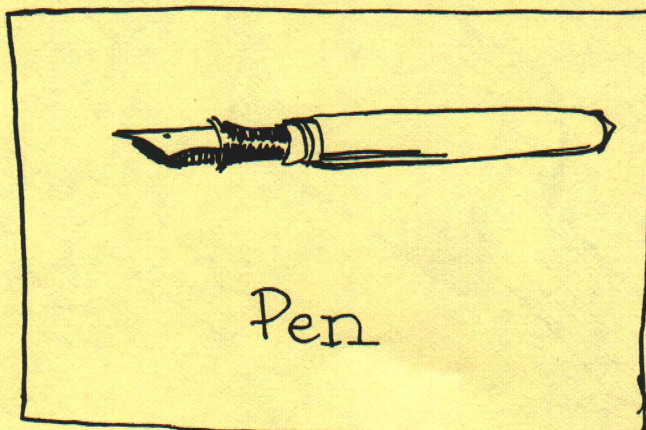
examples:

sponge	carrot
eraser	marshmallow
pencil	rock
pen	matches
blunt scissors	scotch tape
comb	play dough
cotton ball	fork
tooth brush	spice bottle
	game piece

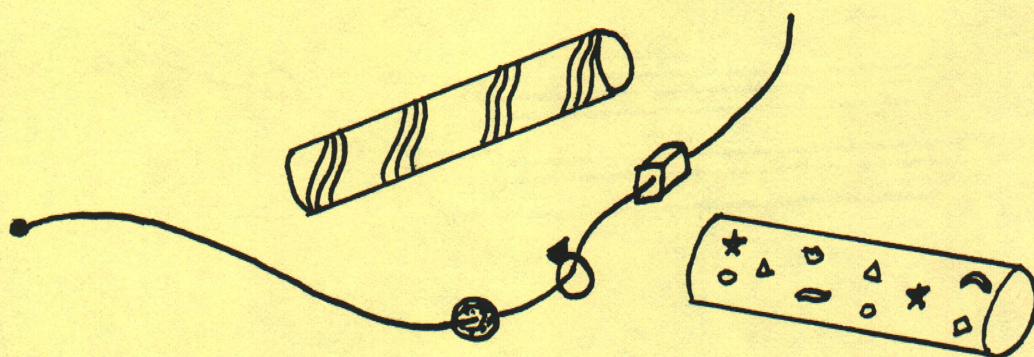
and some cardboard or poster board on which you make cards and draw or find a magazine picture of each object.

(So you'll need glue and a pen or markers or crayon.)

- 1) Cover the can with the sock (make sure the sock is big enough to leave a "sleeve" - and that the can has no sharp edges.)
- 2) Cut out cards about this size:
- 3) Draw or paste a picture of one of your objects and print what it is in large, clear print:



## TUBE GAME

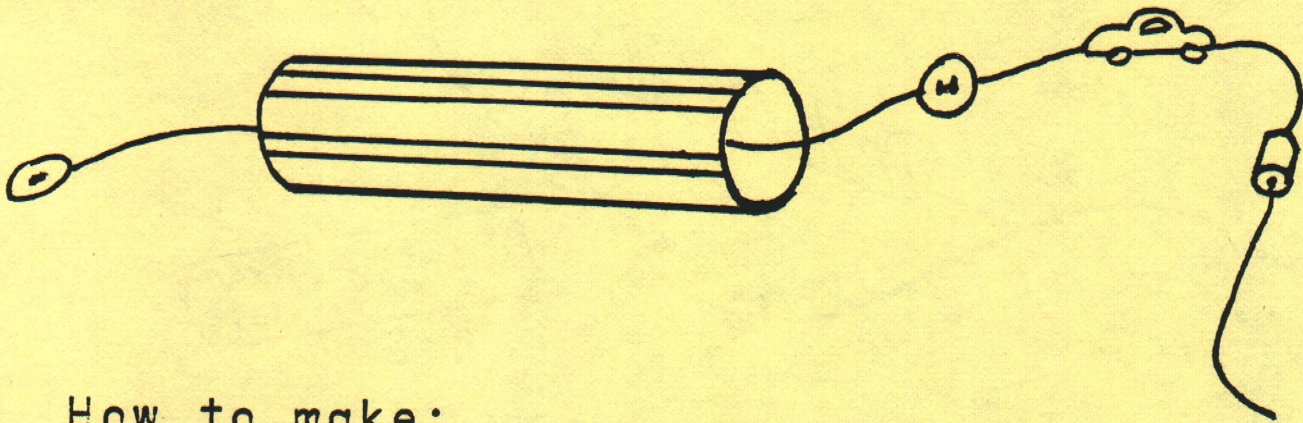


Why? To help your child remember things in order.  
To learn the meaning of words like first, next and last. Your child will enjoy the suspense involved in this game.

### You can:

Tie 3 objects on a string. Talk about the objects. Have your child watch them as they go into one end of the tube. Ask the child to guess what will come out of the other end first, next, and last. Repeat several times using different objects.

You can change the order of the objects or add new objects.



How to make:

You need:

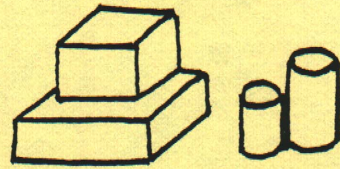
- 3 different objects for each string.
- examples: a spool, a small car, a button, a paper clip, a balloon, a small plastic animal, a small barette.
- a long piece of string or yarn 30-36 inches.
- a cardboard tube, from a paper towel or wrapping paper roll.
- colored construction paper or colored contact paper.

To make:

Tie the 3 objects on one string leaving some space between each object. Be sure the string is long enough on each end so that you can drop it all the way through the tube and then begin pulling. Fasten a large paper clip, button or screw on the end you plan to drop into the tube first. The weight of the paper clip or screw will direct the string to the opposite end when you raise the first end of the tube. The objects should be close enough together on the string so that all are inside the tube when the string is pulled to hide them in the tube.

Cover the tube with colored contact paper to add interest to the game. Colored construction paper or paint may also be used to decorate the tube.

## BUILDING BLOCKS



### Why?

To learn to create and build towers and other structures.

To learn how blocks are different in shape and size.

To use blocks with other toys to act out real life experiences.

### You can:

Encourage your child to build with the blocks. Build a fence or a tower with your child by taking turns in adding a block.

Suggest using different types of toys with the blocks, for example: small cars, trucks, road signs, small people, animals, tractors, other farm equipment.

Talk about the size of the blocks. Which one is smaller? Which one is larger?



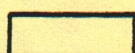
Talk about the shapes of the blocks. Which one is longer? Which one has square sides or ends?

You can:

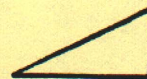
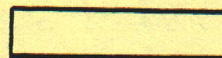
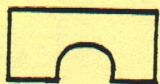
Talk about the colors of the blocks.  
Match colors that are the same  
by placing them in a pile  
together.

To make:

Blocks can be made from wood or  
wood scraps, large and small  
boxes, shoe boxes, soap boxes,  
and cereal boxes. Catmeal and  
salt containers can be used as  
cylinder-shaped blocks.

A variety of shapes and sizes of  
blocks are more interesting  
for the child. Wooden blocks  
can be made into triangles ,  
squares , and rectangles .

Several other shapes are often  
found in wooden block sets.



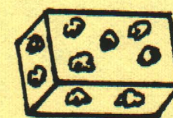
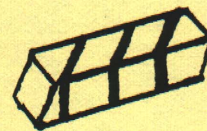
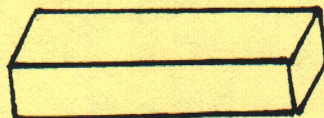
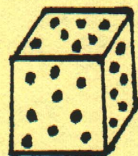


To make:

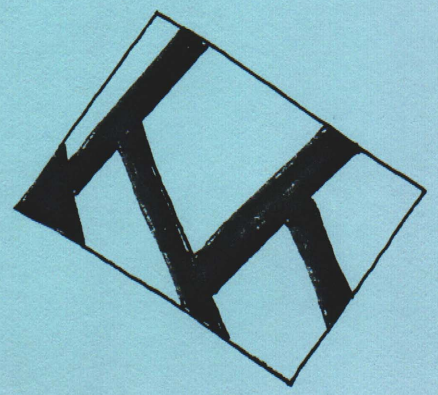
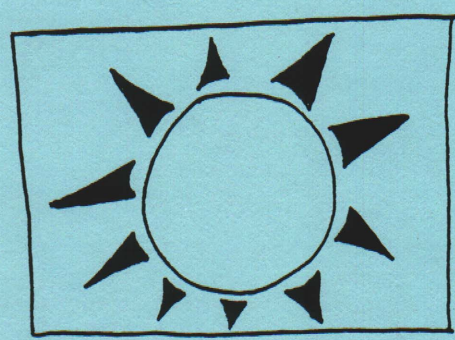
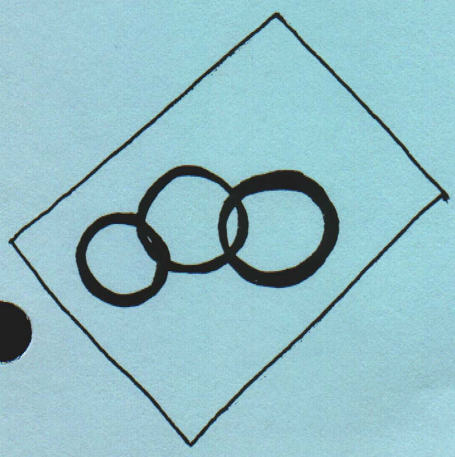
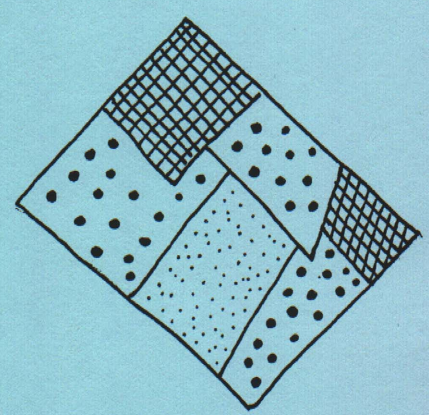
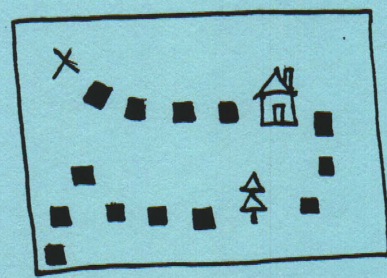
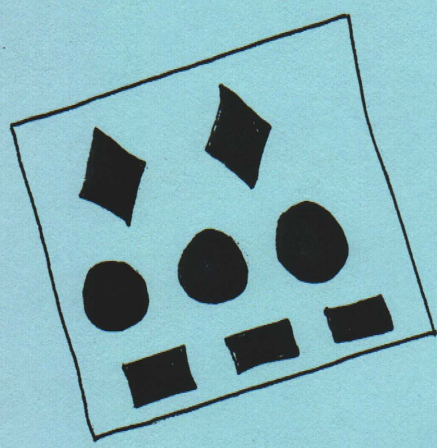
Wooden blocks should be sanded so that there are no sharp edges or splinters. They could also be painted or varnished if the paint is lead free and child safe.

Small and large boxes can be used to make an inexpensive, practical set of blocks. Choose boxes of different shapes. Soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, screws and office supplies are often packaged in boxes which are appropriate for small building blocks.

Stuff the box with wadded newspaper or packing material to give more weight and stability to the block. Cover the entire box with brightly colored contact paper. A variety of colors and designs make an attractive set of blocks.



# CARDBOARD AND PICTURES

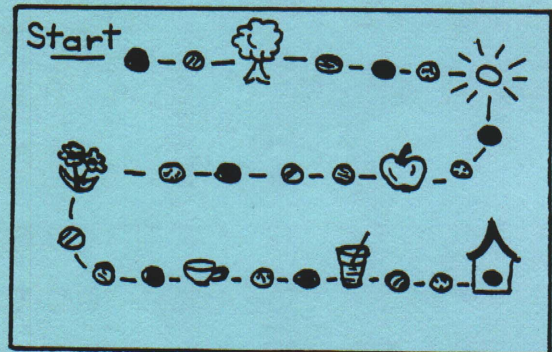




## "FIND ONE LIKE ME" GAME

### Why?

Your child learns  
to match colors.  
Your child learns  
to match pictures.  
You can talk about  
the pictures and  
colors.



Your child learns to take turns.

### How to Play

Colored dots show the path. Pictures  
show special stops along the path.

Put the markers at the "start."

Put the small cards in a pile upside  
down.

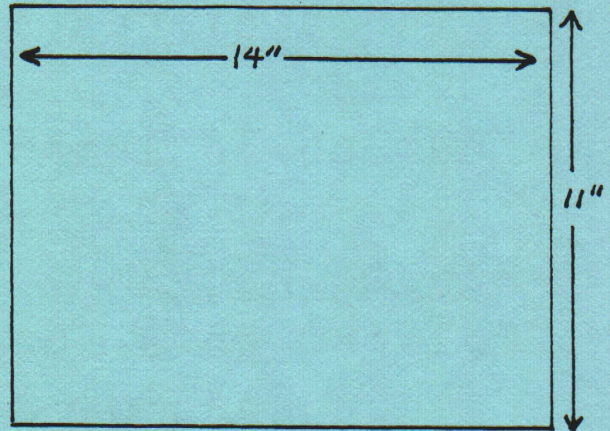
The first player takes the top card  
and moves his marker to the first  
matching dot or picture along the  
path. A picture may be in a spot  
in back of you, then you must move  
backward. Put the card in a  
separate pile.

The next player takes a card and moves  
in the same way.

## How to Make the Game

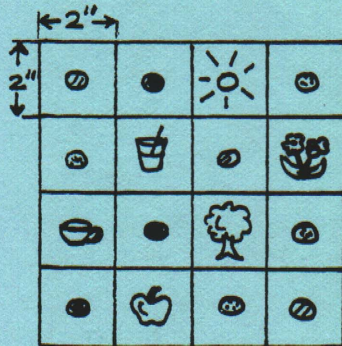
1. Use a piece of heavy paper or cardboard, about 11" x 14".
2. Make a path on the board using stick-on dots or draw the dots.

Use stick-on pictures (or draw them, too) in place of some of the dots. A pair of pictures is needed, one



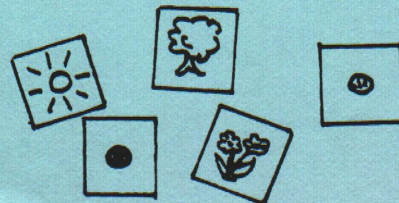
for the board, one for the cards.

3. Make small 2" x 2" cards on heavy paper or cardboard. Put dots and pictures on the cards to match the pictures and dots on game board.



4. Cover both the game board and the small cards with clear contact paper.

5. Cut apart the small cards.



## MEMCRY GAME (CCNCENTRATION)

### Why?

Your child learns to match pictures that are the same.

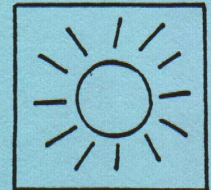
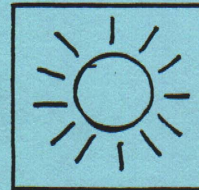
Your child learns to remember where pictures are placed.

Your child learns to play a game with others.

Games are fun.

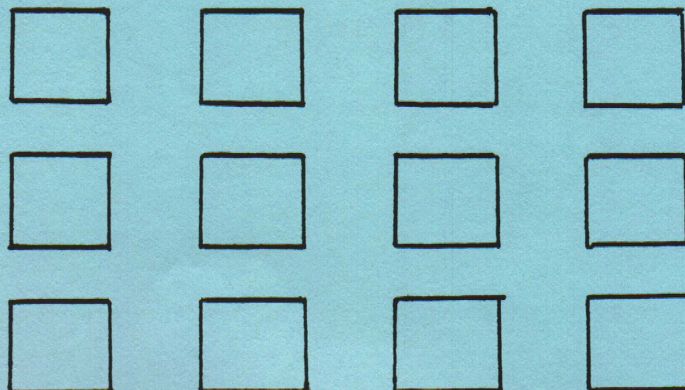
### How to Play:

Look at the pictures on the cards. Name the pictures. Put



the pairs together so that the child sees that there are two pictures alike.

Mix the cards up and lay them picture down on the table (or floor). Use only 3 pairs for very young children (about age 3). Use 6 pairs for four and five year old. Arrange the cards as shown in the illustration.



How to Play: (continued)

Your child takes a turn by turning over two cards and naming the picture. If the two pictures match (a pair), he keeps them, if not he turns them back over in place. Then it's your turn. When all the pairs have been found, the game is over.

A new set of pictures may be used to play again or the same pictures can be shuffled and arranged like the illustrated. For older children, more pairs may be used.

How to Make:

You need -

poster board or cardboard  
pairs of small identical pictures  
(fruit, flowers, animals, airplanes,  
cars, toys, butterflies, leaves,  
etc.). Use two identical catalogues,  
magazines, pictures from sticker  
books, or create your own designs  
and pictures.

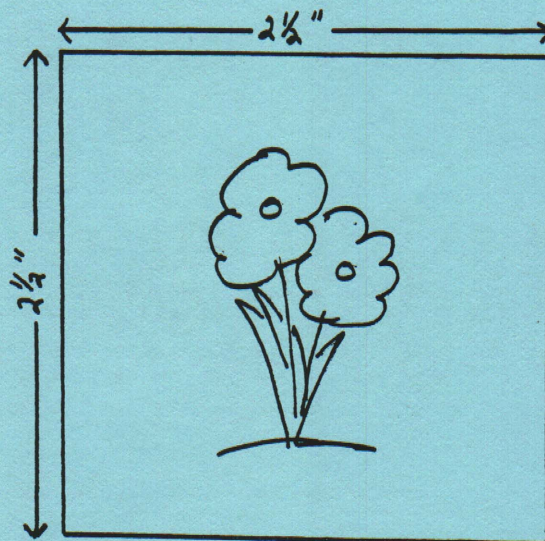
clear contact paper

To Make:

Make a set of 24 cards with 12 pairs of pictures or designs.

Make all the cards the same size  
( $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " is a good size.)

Cover with contact paper to make them last longer.





## PICTURE PUZZLES

### Why?

Puzzles help a child learn how to fit the parts together to make a whole.

A child uses his hands and eyes together as he plays with a puzzle. Playing with puzzles is fun.

### You Can -

Begin by taking out one puzzle piece and let the child practice putting it back.

Take turns fitting pieces of the puzzle together with your child and talk about the finished picture.

### How to Make -

You need:

poster board or light weight cardboard

large picture (8" x 10" or larger is best) from a magazine or inexpensive picture book. Pictures of animals are good choices.

scissors

glue

How to Make - (continued)

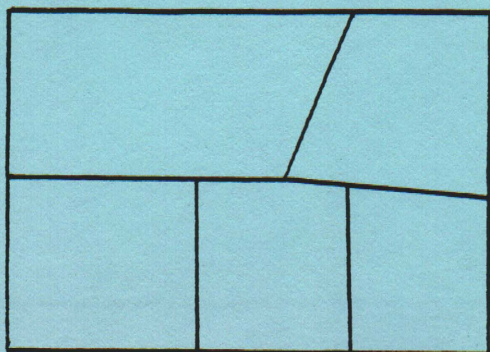
Clear contact paper can be used to cover the front of the puzzle (it will make it last longer) and the back can also be covered. Colored contact paper may be used on the back.

## To Make:

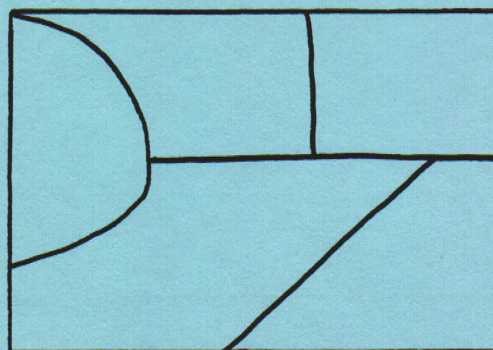
Cut a piece of poster board the same size as your picture. Glue the picture to the poster board. Be sure to put glue all over the poster board so that all parts of the picture are glued to the poster board. Cover the front and back with contact paper.

Draw several simple lines on the picture and cut along the lines you've drawn.

## Examples:



or

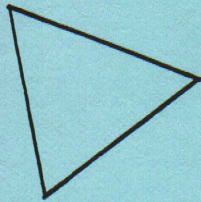


To Make: (continued)

The puzzle should be cut into a few large pieces, about 4 or 5.

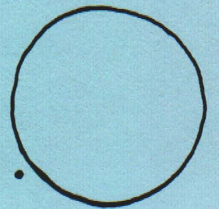
If you make several puzzles, put different colors or designs of contact paper on the backs of each puzzle. The pieces of several puzzles can then be sorted by the backs. For a greater challenge, the child can put the puzzle together using the design or colored side, rather than the picture side.

# FUN WITH SHAPES

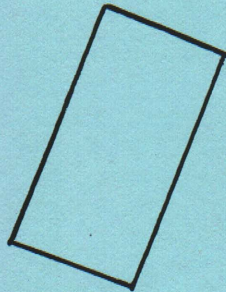


## Why?

Shapes are fun to play with. Designs can be made with shapes. Shapes can be placed on pictures. Your child learns the names of shapes.



You can play a riddle game with shapes.



## How to Play

Fit the shapes together to make designs.





Encourage your child to make different designs.


Place the shapes on pictures made with shapes.


Use the names of the shapes as you play with them.

 - triangles

 - circle

 - rectangle

 - square

 - diamond

Play a riddle game by saying:

"I see a shape with four straight sides and square corners.

Find it." (square or rectangle)

"I see a shape which is round.

Find it."

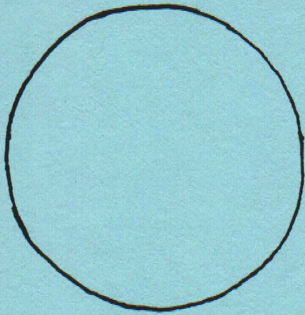
"I see a shape with three sides, all the same length. Find me."

Your child can ask riddles, too.

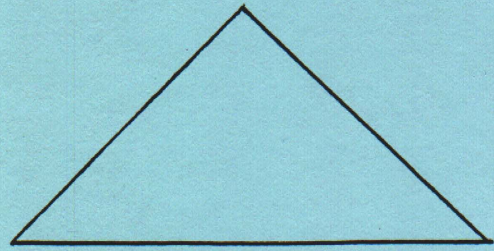
### How to Make

1. Cut shapes like the patterns from several colors of tagboard or from corrugated cardboard. Paint the corrugated cardboard shapes.
2. Make design pictures. Some examples are included.
3. Outline the shapes with colored felt markers, if you want your child to match colored shape pieces to colors on the design pictures.

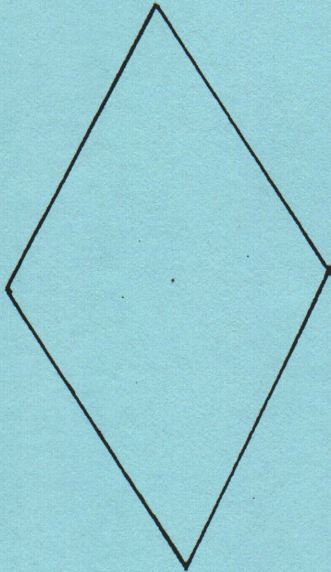
Patterns for Shapes



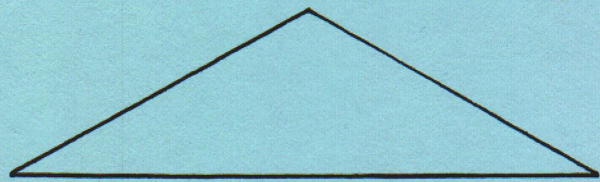
circle



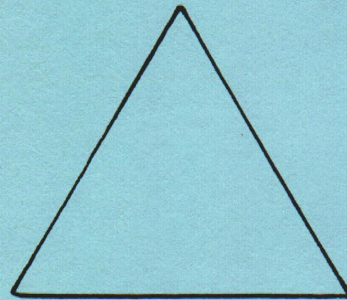
triangle



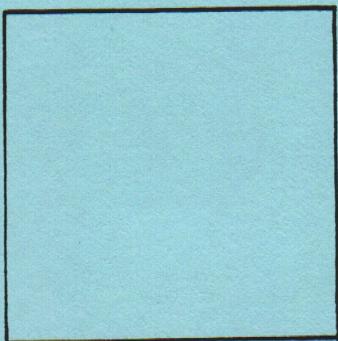
diamond



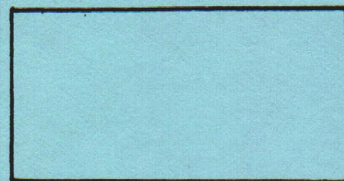
triangle



triangle



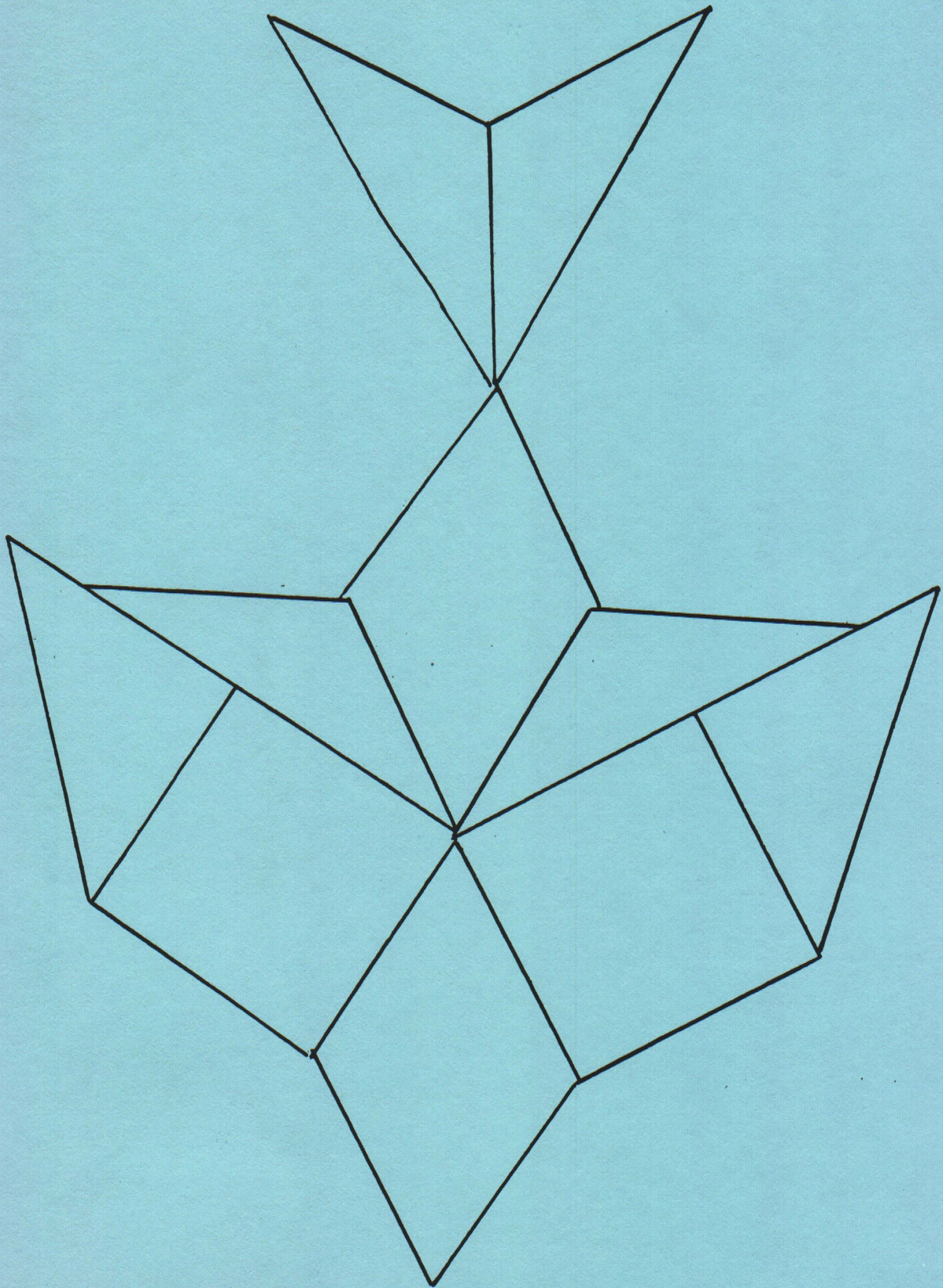
square



rectangle

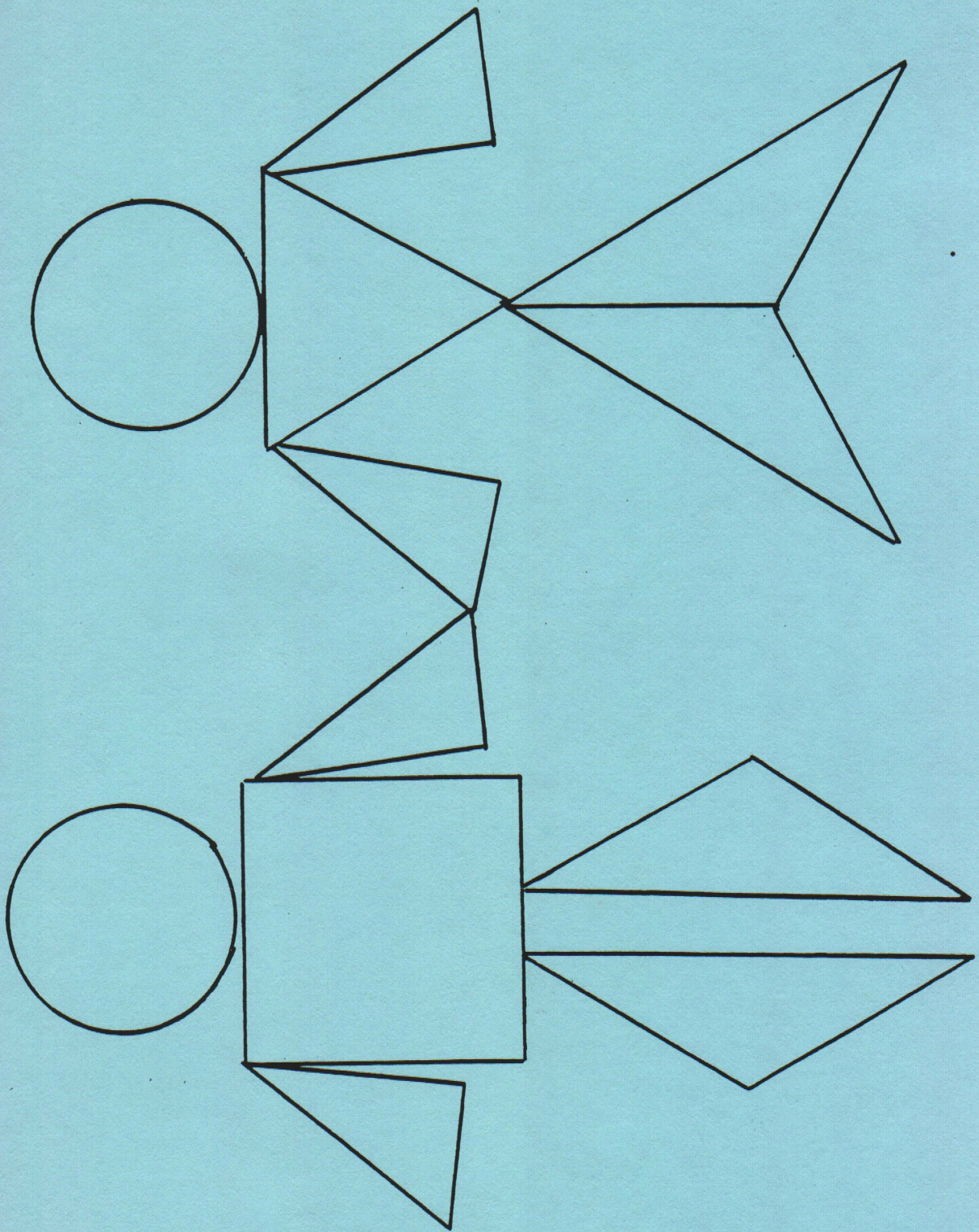


Design Pictures

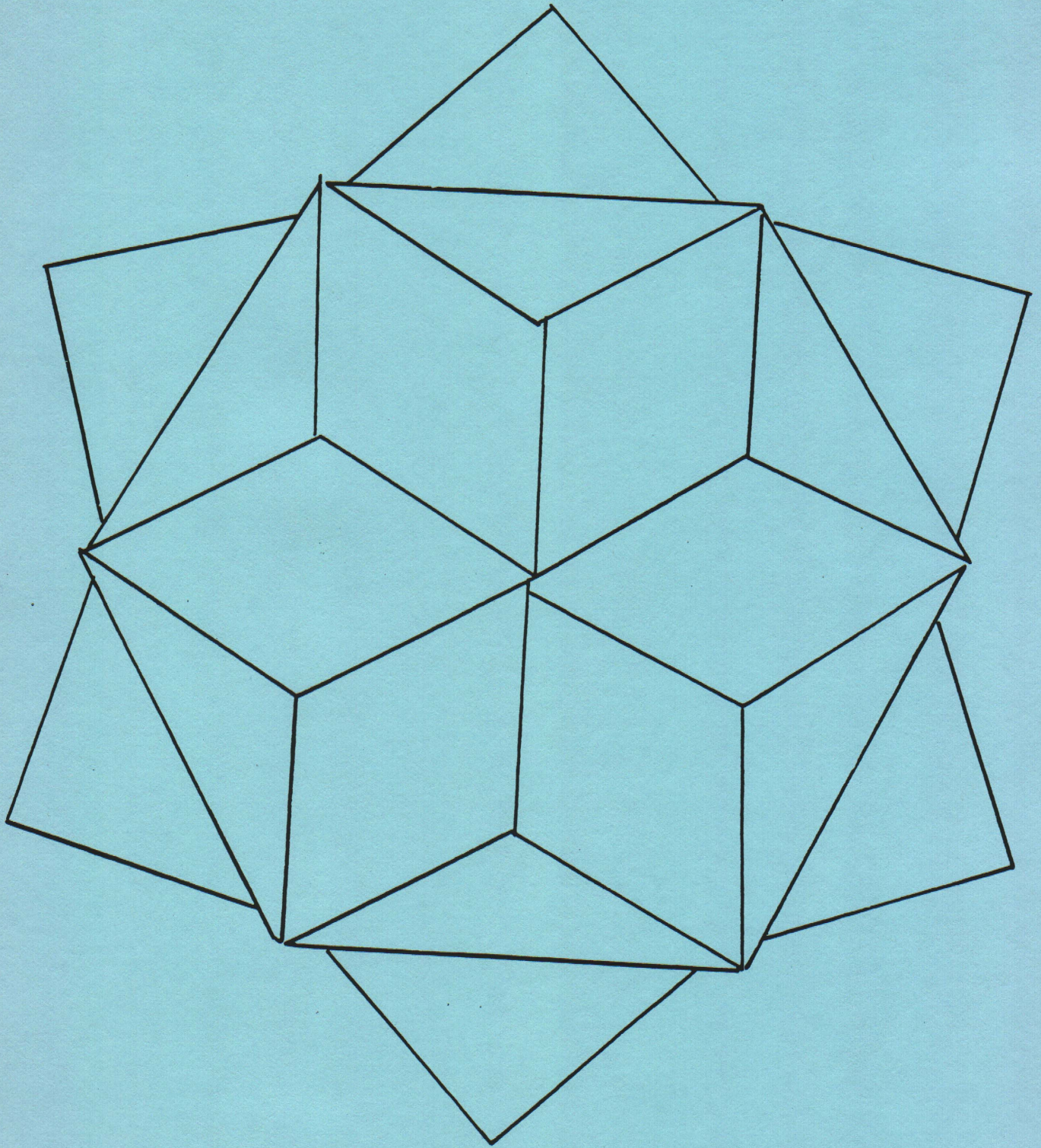














## COLOR AND SHAPE DOMINOES

Why play with dominoes

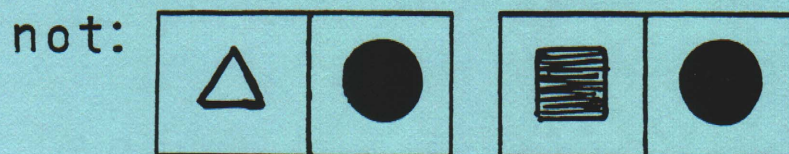
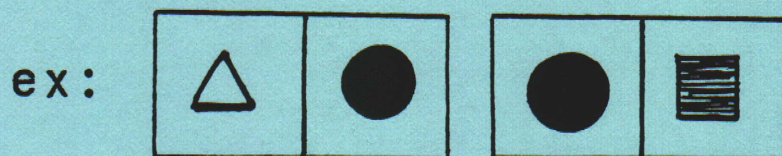
- Your child learns to match shapes and colors.
- Your child learns to take turns and follow rules in a game.
- You can talk to your child about why the shapes and colors match or do not match.

How to play dominoes:

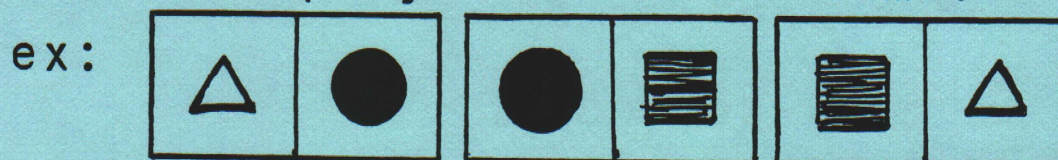
Spread out all the cards face down on table or floor. If 3 people are playing, each player chooses 4 cards. If 4 people are playing each player chooses 3 cards. Each player holds his cards or places them in front of him on the table or floor. The remaining cards are placed in a "face down" pile.

The first player puts down one of his cards. The next player puts down a card from his hand with a shape on it that matches one of the shapes on the card on the table. The matching

shapes are placed next to each other:



The next player does the same:



If a player has a turn and does not have a matching shape, he takes a card from the "face down" pile. If he still can not make a match, the next person takes his turn. The first person to use up all his cards is the winner. Continue playing until all of the cards are used.

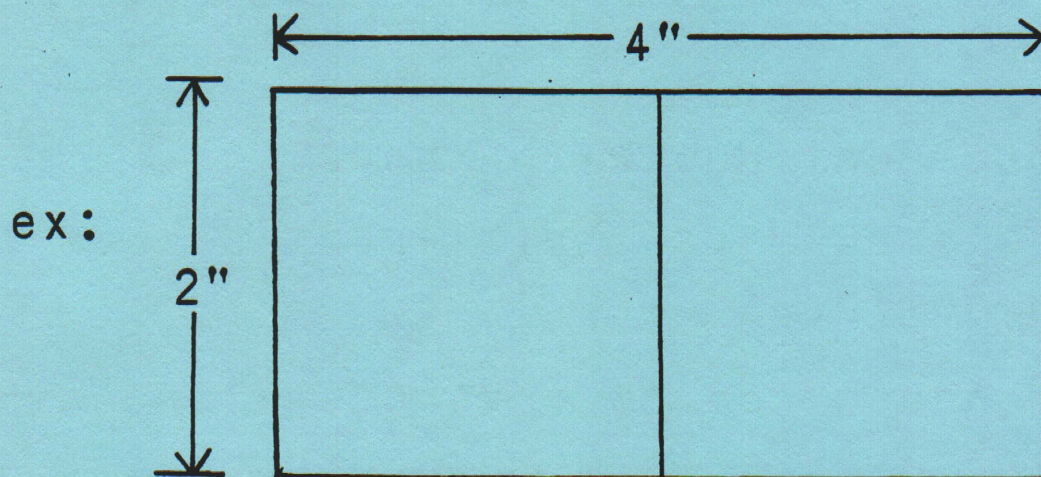
#### Variations:

1. One or two children may want to play with the cards by lining them up by matching the shapes and colors.
2. More cards can be made for older children so the game will last longer.

How to make the dominoes:

Materials: 1 sheet of poster board, scissors, pencil or pen, ruler, 5 shape patterns (to trace on dominoes or cut from colored paper), crayons or magic markers; optional: contact paper to cover dominoes and make them more durable.

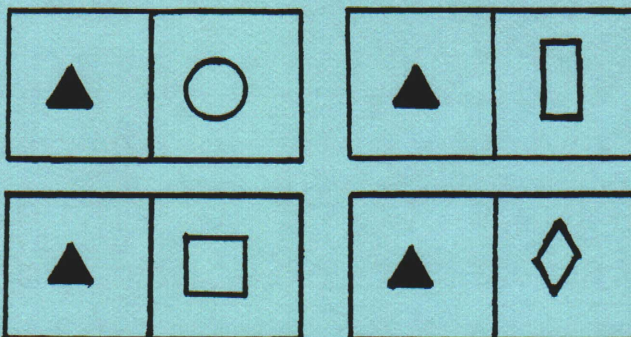
Procedure: divide the poster board into 20 pieces, 2"x4", draw a line down the middle of each.



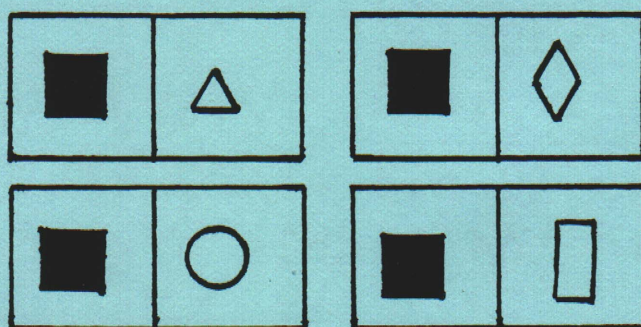
Make 5 sets of 4 cards each, each set will have a shape you choose with the 4 other shapes.



ex: the ▲  
with the 4  
other shapes



the ■



and continue with the ●, ■, ◆

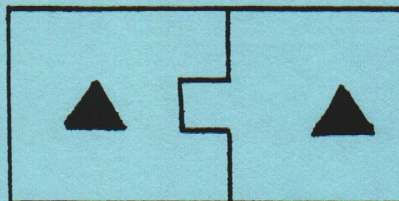
There should be 2 different shapes on each dominoe.

The shapes can be covered with contact paper to make them more durable.

## MATCHING PUZZLES

- Why?
- Your child learns to find shapes and colors that match.
  - The child's eyes and hands work together to complete each puzzle.
  - You can talk about the colors and shapes on each of the puzzles.

How to play with the puzzles: Lay all of the cards out on the table with the picture side up. Let your child choose one piece and then ask him to find the one that "is the same" or "matches" it. He/she can check to see if his answer is correct by putting the pieces together. If the pieces fit, a correct match has been made.



How to make:

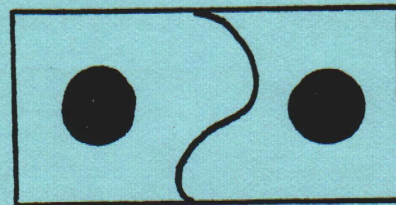
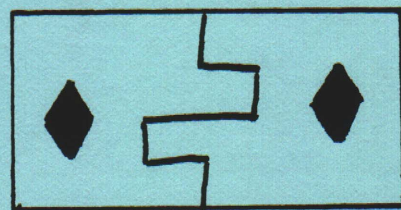
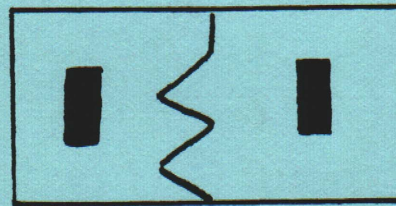
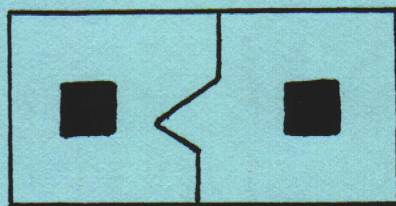
You need - Scissors, poster board, crayons or magic markers, patterns for small shapes, contact paper.

To make - Cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" rectangles from poster board. Draw the same shape on each half of the rectangle.

Then cut the rectangles into two parts. Each rectangle is cut in a different way so that each puzzle piece fits with only one other.

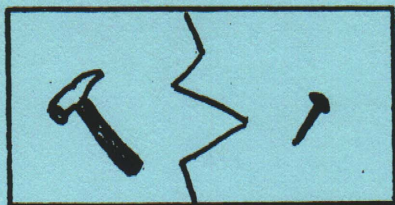
Some examples of cuts are shown below.

Ex.:



Before covering with contact paper divide the board into ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5") rectangles, draw on the shapes and the uneven center lines, cover with contact paper, and then cut.

Pictures may also be used for the matching puzzles. The pictures could show things that go together. For example, a hammer could be drawn on one half and a nail on the other half of the puzzle. Another idea is to have two different pictures of the same animal or an object. For example, two different pictures of balls could be made on the halves of the puzzle.



pattern for  
2½" x 5"  
card  
for  
MATCHING PUZZLES



## WHICH PICTURE IS DIFFERENT?

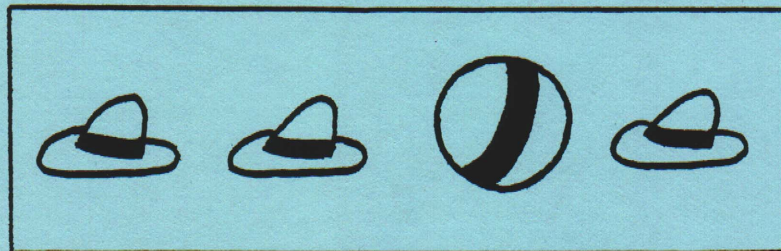
Why? --Your child finds the picture or shape which is not like the others.

--You can talk about the pictures that are alike.

--You can talk about the picture that is different. (What is it? What can you do with it?)

How to Play: Show your child the card and ask him/her to tell what each picture is. Then ask the child to point to the picture that does not "go" with the others or is not like the others. Example: the ball does not go with the hats.

Ask why it does not go with the others.

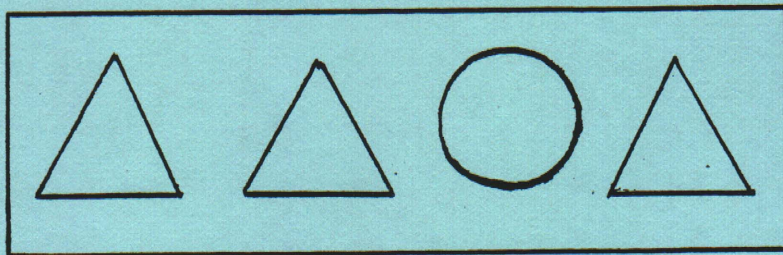


How to Make:

You need - poster board, stickers & contact paper.

You do - (1) Cut poster board into rectangles large enough to hold all the stickers.

(2) Paste on 3 stickers that are the same and one that is different. Put the "different"



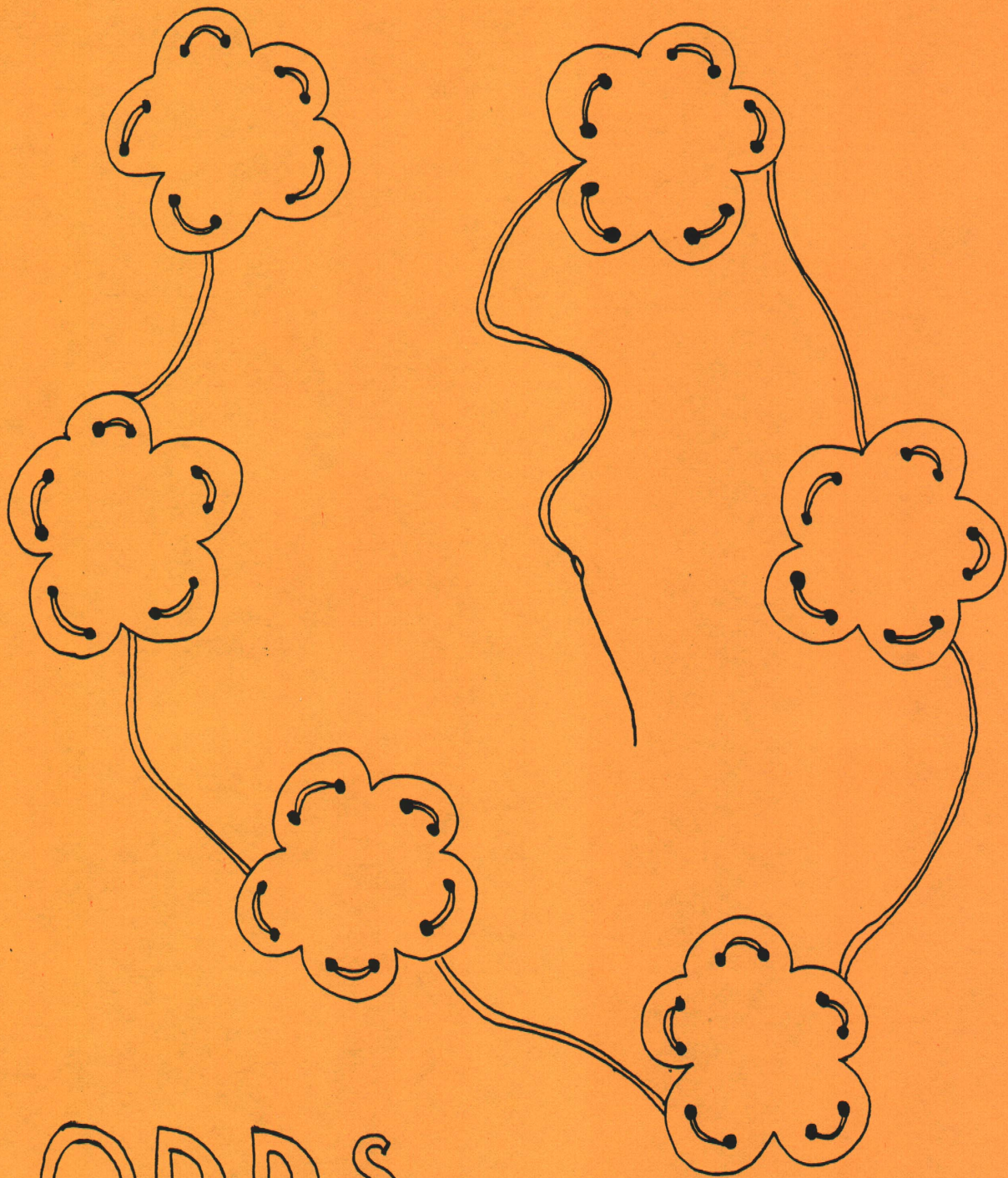
sticker in a variety of positions. For example, sometimes the different one may be first, sometimes second and sometimes third or fourth. Make your own pictures if you do not have stickers or pictures. Simple line drawings are fun to make and children like them. An older child may want to make some cards of his/her own. Pictures can be placed on both sides of the card.

(3) Cover with contact paper.

Pattern for rectangle  
for  
"Which Picture is Different?"







ODDS

AND

ENDS



## LET'S MAKE PLAY DOUGH

Why? Play dough is fun to play with.  
It is easy to make into  
different shapes.  
It can be different colors.  
Our hands and our eyes work  
together when we play with  
play dough.  
We can discover different ways  
to play with the play dough.

### You can:

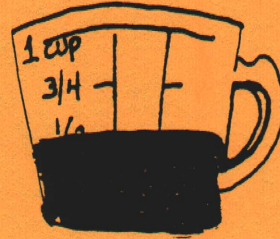
Have fun mixing the ingredients  
together to make play dough.  
Make many colors of play dough.  
Roll it into balls. Pound it.  
Flatten it out like pancakes.  
Cut shapes out of flattened play  
dough with a cookie cutter.  
Roll balls with both hands to make  
"snakes."  
Squeeze it in your palms.  
Make things.

We need:

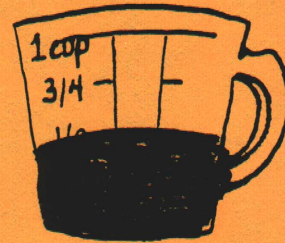
$1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of flour



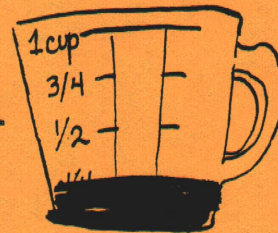
$\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt



$\frac{1}{2}$  cup water



$\frac{1}{4}$  cup vegetable oil



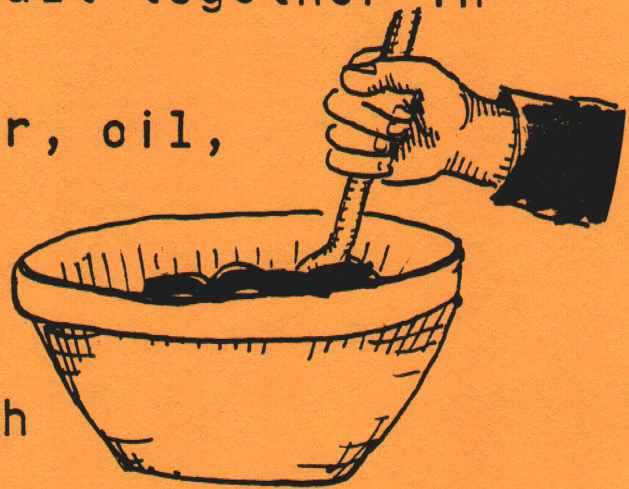
and, food coloring.

1. Mix the flour and salt together in a bowl.

2. Slowly add the water, oil, and food color.

3. Knead the dough and form into balls.

(add flour if the dough is too sticky.)



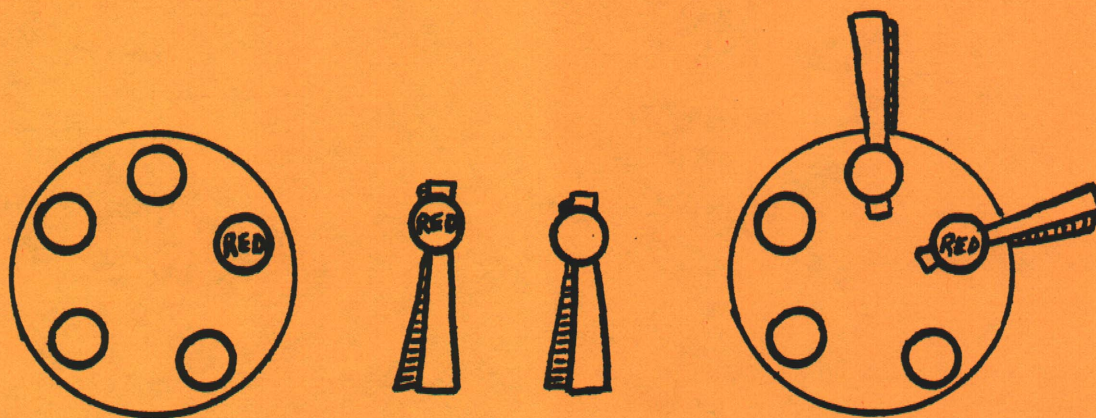
## CLOTHESPIN MATCHING GAME

Why? --Your child learns to match colors or pictures.

--Finger muscles are developed by squeezing the clothespin to open it.

--The fingers and the eyes work together to place the clothespin on the large circle.

How to Play: Find the red color on a clothespin and on the large circle. Squeeze the clothespin to open it. Then place the clothespin over the large circle where the colors match and close the clothespin on the large circle.



How to Make:

You need - Scissors, poster board, glue, crayons or felt pens, spring-type clothespins, patterns for large and small circles

You do - Cut a large circle from poster board. Make small circles on the large circle. Color each small circle a different color. Make another set of small circles the same colors, cut them out, and glue onto the clothespins. The large and small circles can be covered with contact paper to make them last longer.

Shapes or pictures may be used instead of colored circles.

Patterns for Large and  
Small Circles







## LACING ECARDS

Why? When the child puts the shoestring through the holes, he learns to use his eyes and hands together.

Thus, the child is using the fingers and strengthening the finger muscles.

### You can:

Talk about the pictures on the lacing cards.

Take turns putting shoestring through the holes with your child.

Encourage your child to lace his own shoes, or your shoes.

Show your child how to lace different ways.

Example:



How to make:

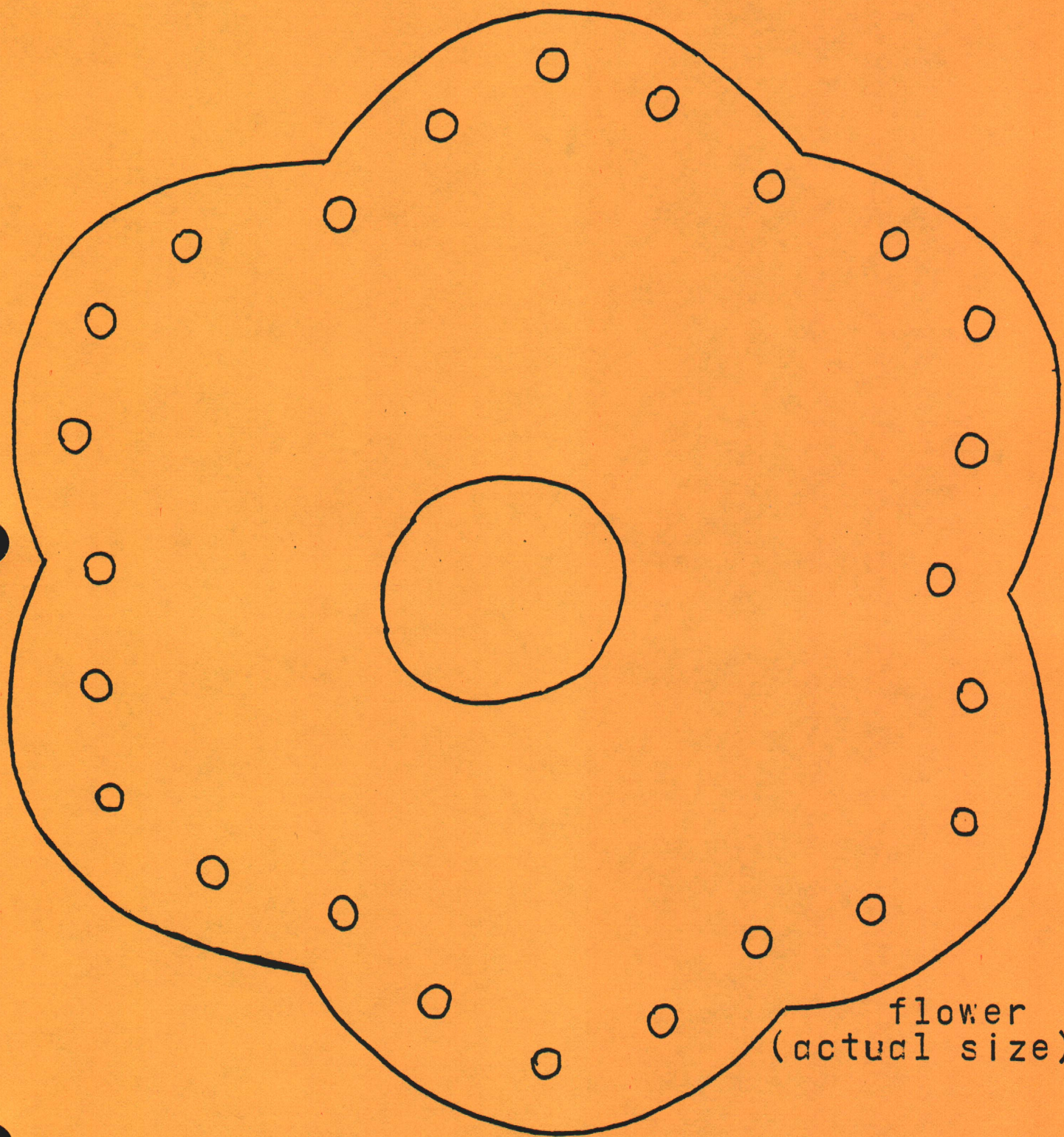
## You need:

poster board or light weight  
cardboard  
scissors  
crayons or felt markers  
shoe laces or pieces of yarn  
with tape wrapped around one  
end to stiffen it  
sharp instrument or paper punch  
to make holes  
contact paper may be used to  
cover lacing boards (not  
necessary, but helps to pro-  
tect the boards)

## To make:

- cut a piece of poster board in a simple shape such as the illustrations.
- use a crayon or felt marker to complete design.
- cover front and back with contact paper
- poke or punch holes around the edge of the picture or following some of the lines of the picture. (Your child will pull the laces through these holes so be sure they are large enough.)

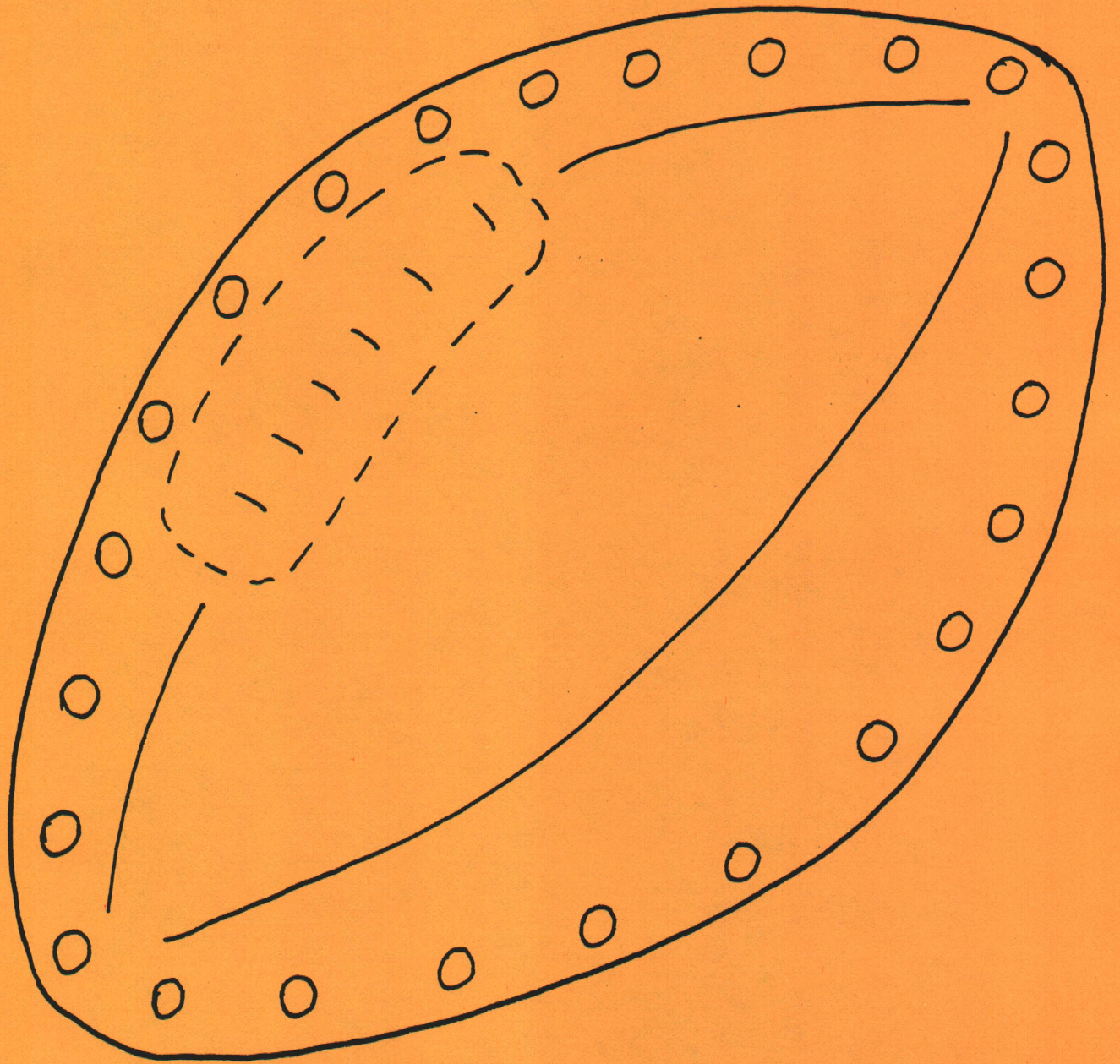
Lacing Board Patterns



flower  
(actual size)

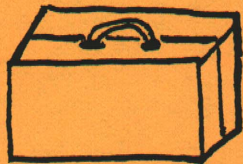


football  
pattern  
(actual size)

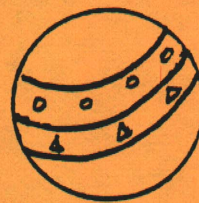




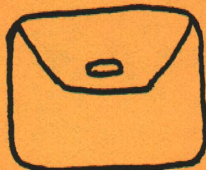
Other possibilities:



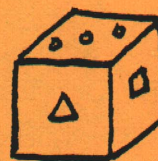
suitcase  
size: 5" x 7"



ball  
size:  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "  
diameter



pocketbook  
size: 5" x 7"



block  
size:  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $7\frac{1}{2}$ "







