

Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award

• 2023 •

Program Guide



Indiana Early Literacy

Firefly Award

Talking • Singing • Reading • Writing
Playing

#INfireflyaward

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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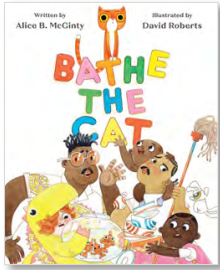
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TeachingBooksSM

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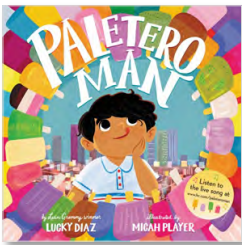
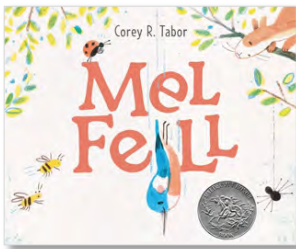
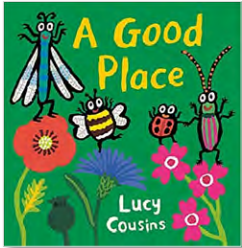
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This program guide was created for Indiana librarians to use to promote the 2023 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Special thanks to Shel Curry, Jennifer Darnell, Hannah Jordan, Ashley Martin, Sarah Morbitzer, Karen Perry, Will Smither, and Jennifer Wakolbinger for their contributions. Pixabay and Canva are great resources for royalty-free images, and we made use of them to make this guide. Special thanks to TeachingBooks.net for their support of our award including printing our ballots and stickers. Don't forget to check out [TeachingBooks.net](https://www.teachingbooks.net) via the INSPIRE databases at [INSPIRE.in.gov](https://inspire.in.gov) for more resources for each book.

- Suzanne Walker, Indiana State Library / Editor



TeachingBooks™

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Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play, and More!



Throughout this guide you will see references to **Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing**. These are the five tenants of the *Every Child Ready to Read* (ECRR) early literacy outreach initiative developed in 2011 by the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, both divisions of the American Library Association.

ECRR is a research-based program that seeks to educate parents and caregivers on how to nurture early literacy skills in their children and successfully become their children's first teacher (<http://everychildreadytoread.org/about/>). The research for this program found that when caregivers talk, sing, read, write, and play with their children, the children can more readily develop skills tied to early literacy. Those skills include vocabulary, letter knowledge, narrative skills, print awareness, print motivation, and phonological awareness. This is a great finding! **That's why the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award has the words Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing directly embedded into our logo!** The books chosen for the Firefly Award must be able to support those five practices. By interacting with the Firefly books, we hope parents and caregivers have quality moments with children that lead to the ultimate goal of raising successful readers.

A quick note on **Writing**. Infants and babies won't be able to hold a crayon until they are around 12 months old. It's great to give toddlers and young children opportunities to practice writing by giving them crayons to scribble with, but before that, babies can actually get their hands ready for writing by working on fine motor skills. Anytime we mention **Writing** in the guide we are highlighting activities that develop fine motor skills.

Activities like block play, cutting paper, threading beads, finger plays, and even clapping and waving for babies are all examples of activities that help develop fine motor skills. When you see **Writing** in the guide, think fine motor skills.

The Indiana State Library offers an [Intro to Every Child Ready to Read](#) self-paced Moodle course and occasionally offers in-person sessions based on ECRR. If you work with children in a library setting, we suggest that you get familiar with the tenants of the Every Child Ready to Read program. It's a great way to build your early literacy knowledge and get comfortable working with caregivers and children. Reach out to the Indiana State Library's Professional Development Office for more details.



Talk & Play

The Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award also builds upon research found in the [Reimagining School Readiness Position Paper](#) developed by the Bay Area Discovery Museum. This research highlights concepts that are similar to Every Child Ready to Read but also includes a few more things to think about. If you work with young children, we suggest you take the time to read the position paper and explore the toolkit based on these findings.

<https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/resources/educator-resources/library-toolkit>



Body & Brain

Along with talking and playing, the research shows that "science learning is critical for the development of higher-order thinking..." Additionally, they found that "demonstrating strong math skills at an early age...predicts long term success in school, not just in later math learning but also in later reading proficiency." Because of this finding, we've added several STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) activities in the guide. You'll also see references to Growth Mindset and Body Movement. These concepts are also covered in the position paper.



Science & Math

The work you do with your youngest patrons is essential to their development. We encourage you to take pride and ownership in what you do and to continually develop your own skills and knowledge of early literacy.

How to Prep a Flannel Board

Flannel or magnet boards are ubiquitous when it comes to storytime. Every well appointed storytime space should have at least one option, and preferably both. Boards allow the storytime performer to lead their participants in rhymes (think “Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate”), walk through a story using narrative characters and objects, work on counting and letters, and so much more. The boards themselves can be large free-standing styles, much like an easel with a flannel board on one side and a magnet board on the other, or they can be of the smaller, table-top variety. In a pinch, the broad side of a book cart or a shiny cookie sheet can work as a magnet board. Cover a sturdy piece of cardboard with felt and, presto! You have yourself a flannel board. It should be noted that with large scale storytimes (for 50+ participants) boards are not as common.

There are many places in this guide where you are instructed to prep pieces for a flannel or magnet board. Some newer librarians may be unsure how to do this. There are many, many methods. Here are a few.

MAGNETS

Peel and stick magnets make creating magnet boards very easy. There are a variety of ways that you can create your pieces.

1. Simply Cut It Out

Print out your desired shape or object, or craft it out of construction paper or other supplies. Print in color or black and white, depending on your library’s copying situation. Cut out your desired shape or object. In most cases you do NOT have to cut around your object in any great detail. A swooping line around your object will usually suffice. Now simply slap a peel-and-stick magnet on the back and you are all set.

2. Laminating

If you want to make a magnet board that will last a while, you might wish to laminate your pieces before attaching a magnet to the back. Be aware, this will make your pieces heavier and you may need to attach extra magnets.

3. Mounting

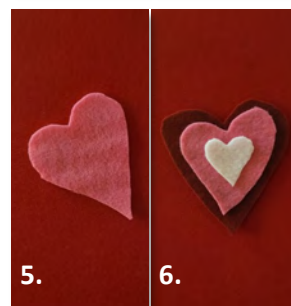
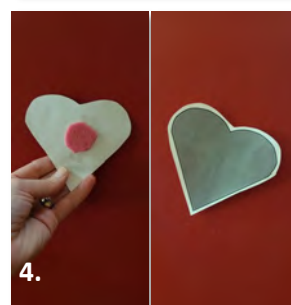
Laminating is expensive and not all libraries can afford to laminate all their storytime pieces. In these cases, you might consider mounting your paper pieces on colored cardstock or construction paper to give them a bit more heft. Use a color that works with the design of your object.

FLANNEL / FELT

When we say “flannel” board we usually mean “felt.” Felt has an advantage over magnets in that it is usually cheaper, but it can be a bit finicky to work with. You can use pieces of felt exactly the same way you’d use a magnet. Glue or tape a small piece of felt to the back of a paper object and it will most likely stick to another piece of felt (or to your flannel board). Other products like Velcro, felt tape, and sandpaper can also be used. **See image 4.**

Felt has one more advantage. You can cut shapes out of felt and stick them to your board without any other prep work. This is great for boards that only require simple shapes like stars, mittens, hearts, etc. **See image 5.** You can even cut out pieces of felt and use a permanent marker to add some details. Smoother (more expensive) felt works best for this.

You can make more intricate felt board pieces by cutting felt of different colors and gluing them together. For this, use tacky glue. The kind in the gold bottle is the best. **See image 6.**



Storytime Plan: All Five Books

THEME | CELEBRATE

Yes. It's difficult to read five books in one storytime, especially when your audience is ages 0-5. That said, reading all five books in one sitting can be an effective way to get a lot of votes for the Firefly program. Instead of patrons coming back multiple times to hear all the nominees, they get a one-and-done sort of experience. This year's books tie neatly together because they all celebrate something, whether it's eating a paleta or going to the beach. Here's a storytime plan using all five books. This is written from the librarian's perspective. Feel free to adjust this plan as needed.

Before you begin you will need:

- Flannel or magnet pieces for the daladala bus on page 54. (Read more about flannel piece prep on page 4).
- Rhythm sticks, shaky eggs, or other rhythm instruments for each participant.
- A device to play a song about going to the beach. There is a list of good song options on page 49.
- Flannel or magnet pieces for five of the paletas on page 50.

OPEN: Sing your typical Welcome Song.

TALKING POINT | Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Program: *Welcome to our special Firefly program! As a reminder, today we will read five books and then vote on our favorite. Our votes go to a statewide program. That's a lot of books to get through, so let's get started!*

TALKING POINT | Daladala: *Let's start with this book called Room for Everyone. This takes place on an island called Zanzibar. Can we all say "Zanzibar" together? In this book everyone is trying to get on a bus, but in Zanzibar they call their buses daladalas. Let's say "daladala" together. Good!*



[Use the flannel board on page 54 to help you tell the story and keep everyone's attention. Remove it when you are done.]

READ | *Room for Everyone* by Naaz Khan

SING | Rhythm Sticks: *I can't believe that everyone fit in the daladala! Do you think they were happy to get to the beach? Let's listen to a song about going to the beach, and you all can play along with the music.*

[Use the rhythm stick activity on page 49. "Let's Go to the Beach" by Nathalia is perfect for this.]

TALKING POINT | Paletas: *Our next book also takes place on a hot day. Look at the cover? What do you think the book is about? That's right! It's about ice cream/popsicles! In Spanish they are called paletas. Let's see if there are more Spanish words in this book.*



READ | *Paletero Man* by Lucky Diaz

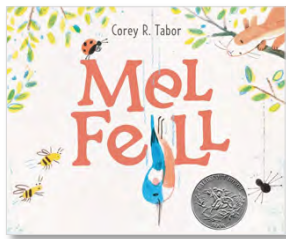
FINGER PLAY | Five Cold Paletas: *Raise your hand if you are hungry for a paleta. Me too. I happen to have five with me today.*

[Place five paletas from page 50 onto the board.]

Let's count these together. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Good! Show me five on your fingers. Great.

[Launch into "Five Cold Paletas" from page 49. Remove the paletas when you are finished.]

Storytime Plan: All Five Books, Page 2



TALKING POINT | Being Outside and Birds: *That was great. I love to be outside. Do any of you like being outside? Something I really like about being outside is all the birds I see. This next book is about a bird. Are you ready?*

READ | Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

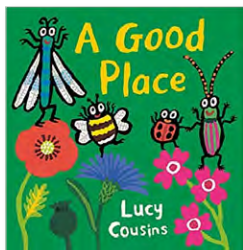
PLAY | This is the Way Birdie Action Rhyme: *Hooray for Mel! She learned to fly! Can you all pretend to be a bird with me?*

[Sing “This is the Way Birdie Action Rhyme” from page 35.]

TALKING POINT | Insects: *The next book is also about creatures who live outdoors, but instead of birds this book is about...insects! What do you all think of insects?*

[The children will probably think insects are gross.]

Insects are actually very important to humans. They help pollinate plants for food, they help aerate the soil for farms, and bees make honey! Let’s see what happens to the insect friends in this book.

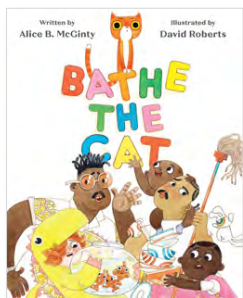


READ | A Good Place by Lucy Cousins

SING | “The Ecology Song”: *I was so glad that the insects found a good place. Let’s sing one more song together.*

[Launch into “The Ecology Song” on page 22.]

TALKING POINT | Cleaning Up: *Not only do we need to keep the Earth clean, sometimes we also have to clean our houses. How many of you have chores that you do at home? What kind of chores do you do? In this book the family is getting ready for Grandma Marge to come, and the house is a mess. Let’s look at the cover. What animal do you see? Right. A cat. Do you think the cat is going to be helpful with cleaning up the house? Let’s find out.*

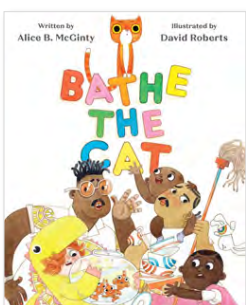


READ | Bathe the Cat by Alice B. McGinty

Thank you so much for listening to all those stories! Now it’s time to vote on our favorite.

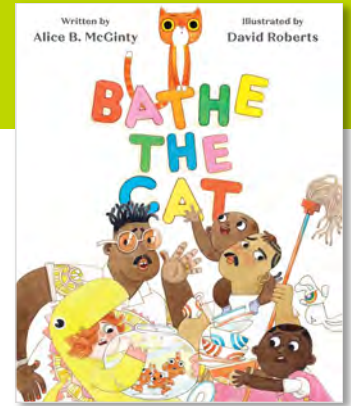
[Vote using any method you choose. Options are described on page 63. You can announce your winner if you like.]

CLOSING: Sing your typical Closing Song.



Bathe the Cat

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



Grandma Marge is coming and the house is a mess! A family tries to get organized by using magnet letters to draft a To-Do list. They are foiled at every turn by a sneaky cat who doesn't want a bath!

TALKING and GROWTH MINDSET | Chores



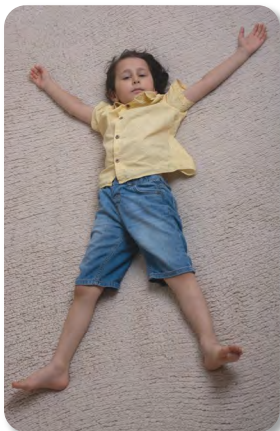
Open your storytime with a discussion about chores. What chores do your storytime children help with at home? There are lots of ways to handle chores. In some families, everyone pitches in while in other families chores for children are less common. According to Carol Dweck of Stanford University, when children get rewarded for effort or hard work (instead of for their personalities, for example) they can develop more of a growth mindset over the course of their lives. Having a *growth mindset*, very simply put, means a child is more open to trying a new task. A child with a *fixed mindset* doesn't like trying new tasks because they are afraid of failure. Doing chores gives parents and caregivers concrete opportunities to praise a child for their effort and help. The two dads in *Bathe the Cat* must have a good grasp of this concept because they encourage their children to help with all kinds of chores.

Make the **chore die** described on the next page. Roll the die and ask your storytime kiddos to stand up if they help with that chore at home. Let parents know that using a chore die or other chore system can make doing chores more fun for children.

TALKING | *Bathe the Cat* and Letter Magnets

The cat in this story causes all kind of havoc by rearranging letter magnets. After reading the story ask the children why the cat did this? It's easy to forget that the cat is trying to avoid bath time. Does the cat ever get a bath?

Letter magnets are wonderful for working on the essential pre-reading skill of letter knowledge. Letter knowledge is more than just knowing the alphabet song. Children need to be able to identify the shapes and names of the letters out of context. If you don't already have a set of letter magnets for your library, consider getting some and using them to talk to children about what letters are and why they are so important.

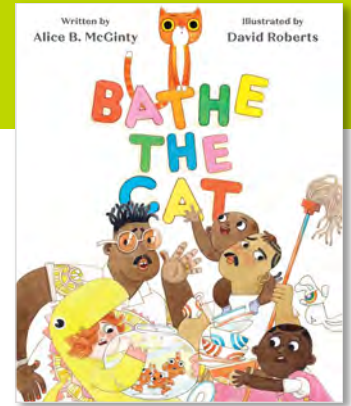


BODY MOVEMENT | Giant Letters

Letter knowledge is an essential skill for children to have before they start learning how to read. Have fun practicing letters using the whole body. Instruct the children to spread out all over the room then lie down on the floor. Caregivers can help the children form their bodies into letters on the floor. The letters "I" and "L" are easy. Can the children make an "O?" An "R?" Can they find a partner or even a small group to make "N," "M," or "W?" Play a song in the background like "The Letters" by Daniel Tashian or use some upbeat classical music like Mozart's Marriage of Figaro to encourage movement and silliness.

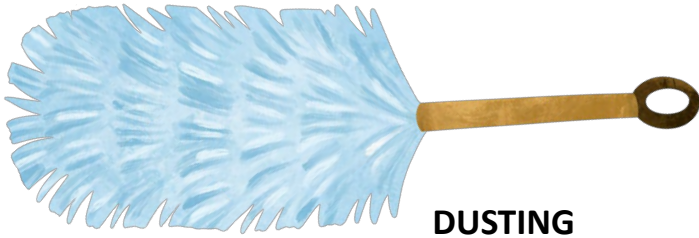
Bathe the Cat

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



TALKING | Chore Die

Make this simple chore die out of a square tissue box. Roll it during storytime to facilitate a discussion about chores. What chores do children help with? What chores do you do at home? What chores need to be done in the library?



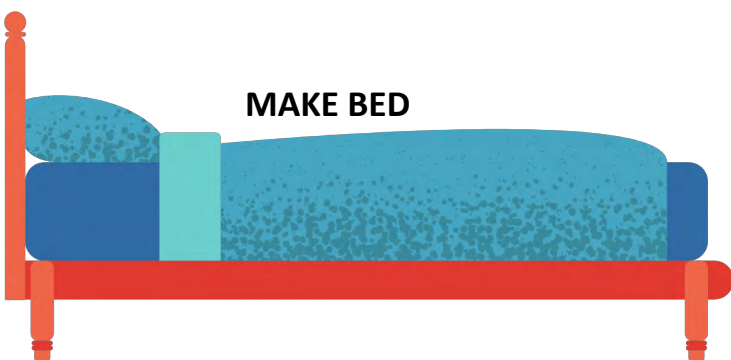
PUT AWAY TOYS



PUT BOOKS AWAY



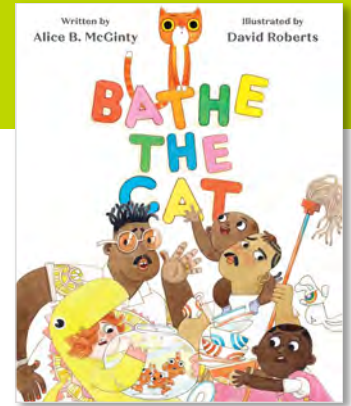
PUT LAUNDRY IN HAMPER



Example of a simple chore die.

Bathe the Cat

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



READING | Booklists

Bathe the Cat touches on many topics including cleaning, chores, pets, time (pay attention to Daddy's watch in nearly every spread), cats, letter knowledge, and families. Here are three book lists to explore.

Rainbow Families

The families that come to storytime at your library will all be different. Some children will have two parents. Some children will have one parent. Some children are raised by their grandparents. Some children are raised by friends or other family members. Some children are in foster care. Children can have many siblings or many step siblings. Children can have half siblings or no siblings at all. Children may have many parent figures if parents have separated and then found new partners. Rainbow families oftentimes have two mothers or two fathers. It's important to celebrate all kinds of families and nurture a sense of inclusivity at your library. Children need to feel safe. Validating all families is a great way to make your youngest patrons feel safe at your library. Explore this list for more stories about Rainbow Families.

- *Families* by Shelley Rotner
- *Families, Families, Families!* by Suzanne Lang
- *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
- *Pride Puppy!* by Robin Stevenson
- *Love Makes a Family* by Sophie Beer
- *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer



Silly Cats

Naughty cats have featured in children's literature going back all the way to fairy tales and *Puss in Boots*. Take a look at this list for books all about mischievous kitty cats.

- *Atticus Caticus* by Sarah Maizes
- *Happy Cats* by Katherina Amari
- *Inside Cat* by Brendan Wenzel
- *Jeff Goes Wild* by Angie Rozelaar
- *Max Attacks* by Kathi Appelt
- *Negative Cat* by Sophie Blackall



Cleaning and Chores

Children who do chores at home can develop higher self-esteem, learn responsibility, gain experience handling frustration, learn about delaying gratification, and so much more. For more stories about chores check out this list.

- *How Do Dinosaurs Clean Their Rooms?* by Jane Yolen
- *Llama Llama Mess, Mess, Mess* by Anna Dewdney
- *I Am Tidy* by Jen Porter
- *The Runaway Shirt* by Kathy MacMillan
- *Rocket Says Clean Up!* by Nathan Byron



SINGING | This Is the Way We Make an A

This book is a celebration of letters! Try this easy finger play with the children. Sing it to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush." Place a picture of the letter you are singing about on your flannel or magnet board. Show the children how they can make the letter in the air with their finger, draw it on the floor, or even draw it on their arm. Instead of doing the whole alphabet, take requests from the audience. Children will want to make their own initials more than any other letter.

This is the way we make an 'A'
Make an 'A'
Make an 'A'
This is the way we make an 'A'
And now we know our letters.

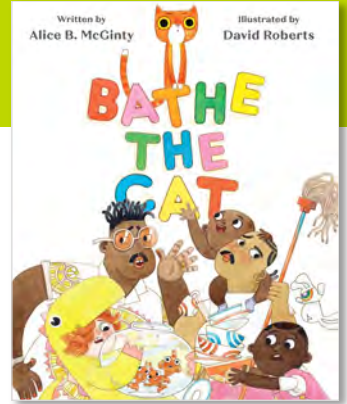
This is the way we make a 'B'
Make a 'B'
Make a 'B'
This is the way we make an 'B'
And now we know our letters.

Repeat with other letters.



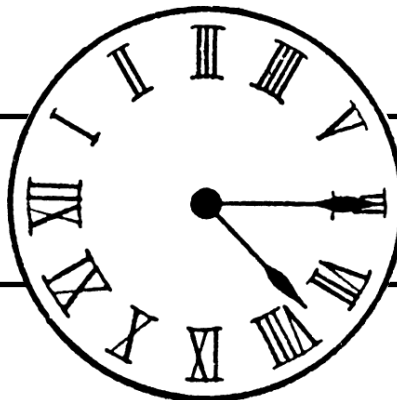
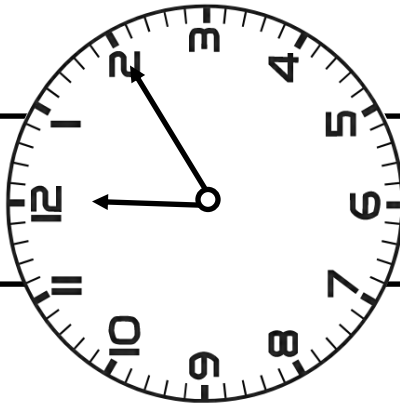
Bathe the Cat

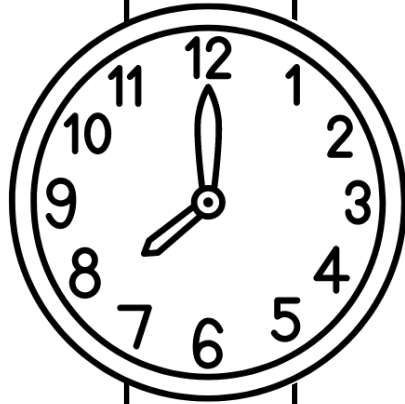
by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



WRITING | Watch Craft

Notice Daddy's watch in this book? Try this easy craft with your little ones. Cut out enough watches for each of your storytime participants. Have them decorate their watches and then, if they like, tape them around their wrists with parent help. The sensation of wearing a watch might be new to children with sensory sensitivities, and not every child will be able to tolerate how the watch feels on their wrist. That said, wearing a pretend watch is a good way to get children interested in learning to tell time. Telling time on an analog clock is great math practice and helps children understand sophisticated concepts like subtraction, equivalence, fractions, and more. There are more watches on the next page.

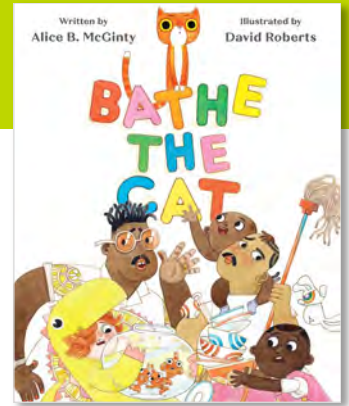




*Simple watches
to cut out.*

Bathe the Cat

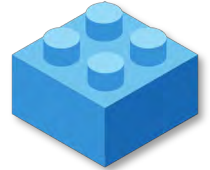
by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



STEM | Counting by Fives with Legos

Bathe the Cat takes place during a one-hour timeslot. On the first page Daddy says it's time to clean up. If you look closely, you can tell that his watch shows the time is one o'clock. Then Daddy says that Grandma comes at two, so a savvy reader will know there is only one hour to get the house in order. Over the course of the book Daddy's watch moves through the hour until there are only ten minutes left to clean. Eek! Get your Legos out to help your kiddos start to understand how time works on a clock.

You will need 60 Legos that are all the same size. A four-by-four Lego works best. Group your Legos in sets of five so you have twelve sets of five Legos, with each set being the same color. Put a magnet on the back of each of your Lego stacks. Print out the clock face on the following page and attach it to a magnet board. If you do not have a magnet board, you may be able to use the side of a book cart.



For the activity, point to the clock and ask your participants if they know what it is. Ask them if they know what it is used for. Now, ask them if they can see the tiny lines between each of the numbers. Count the lines together starting at the 12 and ending with the number 1. How many lines did you count? You counted 5. Do it again from the 1 to the 2. How many lines did you count? You counted 5 again. Tell the children that the space between each number is always five.

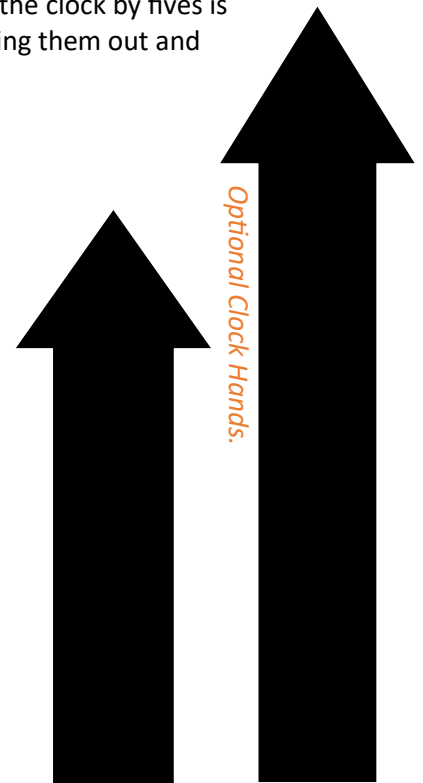
Now, show them a stack of five Legos. Take them apart so the children can count the five Legos. (For convenience, this stack of Legos might be separate from the 12 sets you prepared above.) Stack them back together and ask the children to watch what you do next.

Place the 12 sets of Legos around the clock as shown in the picture. Ask them to tell you again, how many Legos are in each stack. Now, how many Legos are around the whole clock? You could count each Lego, or you could count by fives. **Play one of the songs below** and point to your clock throughout the song. The children can clap along with you. After hearing the song, count the Legos on the clock together by fives. The children may not be able to do it, but hearing you do it and seeing you move around the clock by fives is good exposure to this concept. If you like, you can add the hands to the clock by cutting them out and attaching them to your clock with a brass brad.

- "How Many Fives Around the Clock?" By Genevieve Goings
- "Multiplying by Fives" by School House Rock
- "The Counting by Fives Song" by Scratch Garden



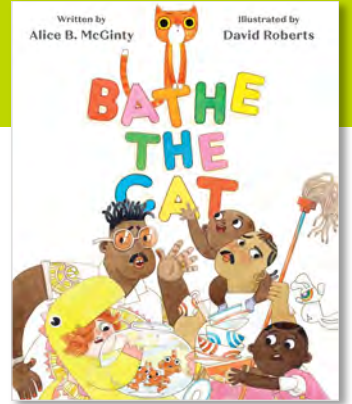
Example of Lego Clock.



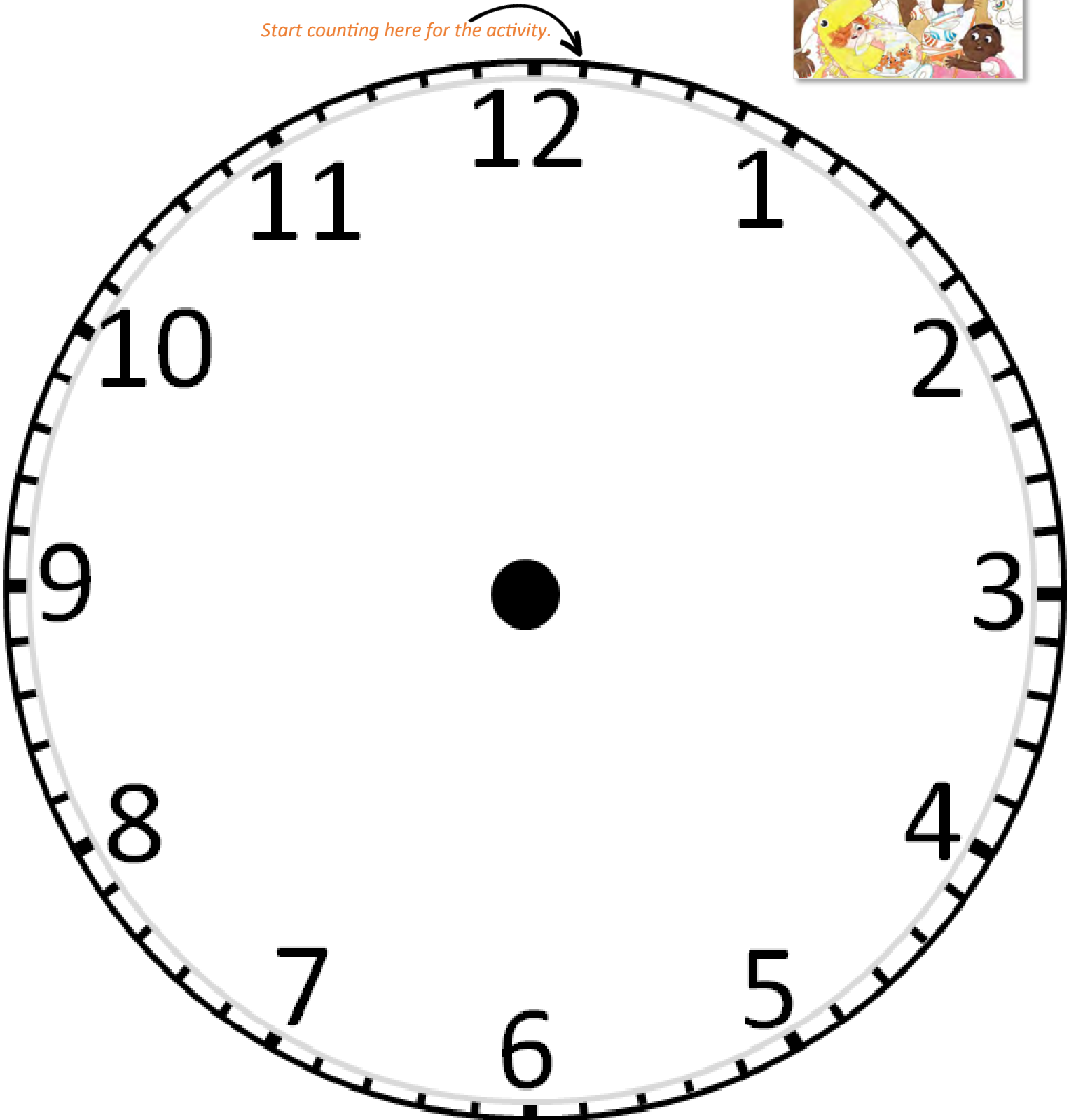
Bathe the Cat

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts

Clock for Counting by Fives with Legos.

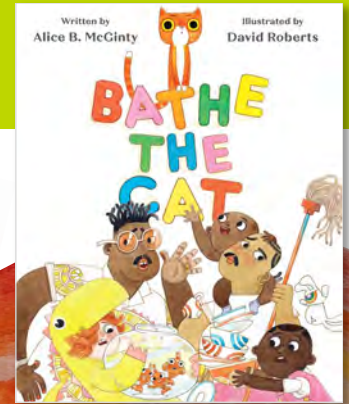


Start counting here for the activity.



Bathe the Cat

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



WRITING | Lovely Rainbows

The rainbow has been a symbol of inclusivity and pride since the late 1970's. Study the illustrations in *Bathe the Cat* and see how many rainbows you can find, then make this lovely rainbow craft with your storytime participants. There are many other rainbow crafts available online if this one doesn't suit your needs.

You will need:

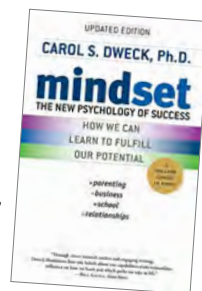
- Coffee filters
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes
- Scissors
- Smocks for the children (optional)



Talk about the colors of the rainbow and show some images of real rainbows. In a real rainbow, the colors blend into each other much like they will in this craft. Give each child one coffee filter and a paint box. Have the children start at either end of their paint box (most are already in rainbow order) and paint concentric circles from the middle to the edge of their coffee filter. Children should practice keeping their brushes full of paint and rinsing after each color. If you have time and space, let each child try this craft a few times. They will be able to see improvement with practice. Allow the coffee filters to dry. Once they are dry enough to handle, have the grown-ups cut the filters in half. Each filter will make two rainbows. This craft can also be done with markers for less mess, although the colors won't spread as much.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Growth Mindset and Chores

To learn more about the concept of growth mindset, check out research by Carol S. Dweck, the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. Her very readable book is *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. It has a lot of applications to early literacy. If you only have ten minutes, watch Carol's TedTalk titled *The Power of Believing that You Can Improve*. It's easy to find.



To learn more about the importance of doing chores with children head to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (www.aacap.org) and search for the article titled "Chores and Children." There are so many benefits to having children help with chores including learning time management, which is highlighted over and over again in *Bathe the Cat*.

SINGING | Can You Find the Letter A?

Combine this song with an activity. Place several letters on your magnet board. The older the children are, the more letters you can put on the board. Call one child up to the board and see if they can find the letter you are singing about before you get to the end of the verse. Sing this song to the tune of "The Muffin Man."

Can you find the letter 'A'?
The letter 'A'
The letter 'A'
Can you find the letter 'A'?
A, A, A, A, A.

"The Muffin Man" is an easy and fun song to play on a guitar or ukulele. It only has three chords: G, A, and D7. Don't get confused below by what is a chord name and what is a lyric. Letters can be hard for grown-ups too!

G
Can you find the letter 'A'?

C
The letter 'A'

D7
The letter 'A'

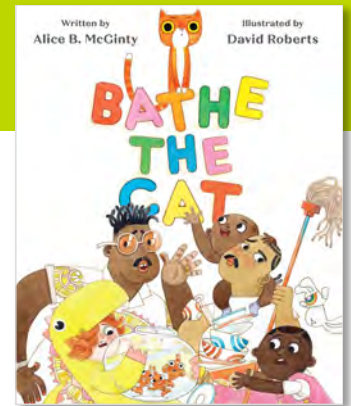
G
Can you find the letter 'A'?

C D7 G
A, A, A, A, A.



Bathe the Cat

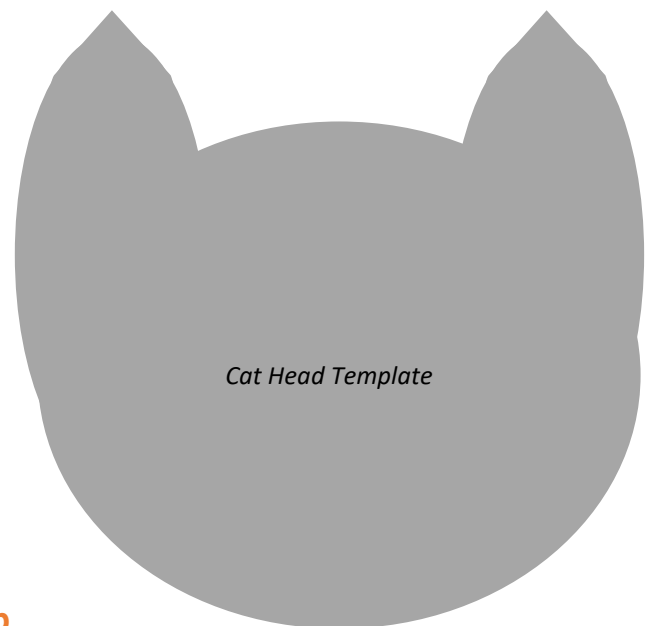
by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts



WRITING | Cat Craft

This simple craft encourages caregivers and children to work together. To prepare, cut a few cardboard cat-head-templates so you have an easy shape for parents to trace. Cardboard from cereal or other food boxes is perfect. You will need a handful of cat-head-templates to start. Participants can trace the head then pass the template to the next participant.

For the craft, have the adult trace their child's hand on any colored construction paper that seems cat-like. Black, white, yellow, orange, or brown are common cat colors, but don't let that limit you from blue, green, or purple cats. You could even use patterned paper for more variety. Either the adult or the child can cut out the handprint depending on the ability of the child. Trace and cut the head next, using the template as a guide. Next, glue the head. Point to the head, four legs, and tale (the thumb). Children can decorate their cats any way they like. Colored pencils are good for fine details. Eye stickers will make the cats look more finished, but they are not necessary.



Cat Head Template

PLAYING and SINGING | Open Play and Cleaning Up

Open play should be a part of every storytime. Ten minutes of unstructured play at the end of a session is valuable time for children to learn about sharing, taking turns, playing together, and other prosocial skills. Oftentimes libraries have toys specifically for open play. These toys can include blocks, puzzles, pull toys, stacking toys, animals, hand puppets, trains and cars, and pretend food and dishes. Make sure your toys are organized and simple to put away so that children can help. Bins, baskets, and boxes are convenient ways to organize toys. If you are super fancy, you might attach a picture of the toy to each bin so children can match as they help clean up. When it's time to clean up, find a clean-up song you love and play it every week. Parents might be able to use the same song at home to encourage cleaning there, just like at the library. This list includes songs by a variety of performers. You can find them on Spotify, YouTube, or various music services.

- "Clean Up" by Shawn Brown
- "Clean Up My Room Song" by Kid Kongo
- "Clean Up Your Toys" by We Kids Rock!
- "Five Minutes Clean Up Song" by Miles Bonny
- "Oh My Goodness, Look At This Mess!"
by Sweet Honey In The Rock

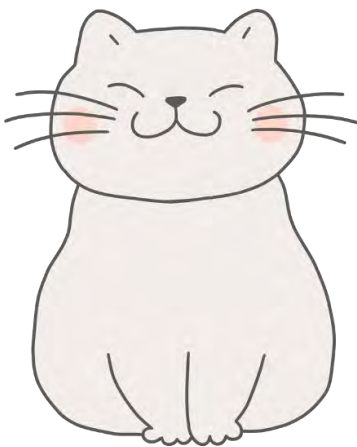
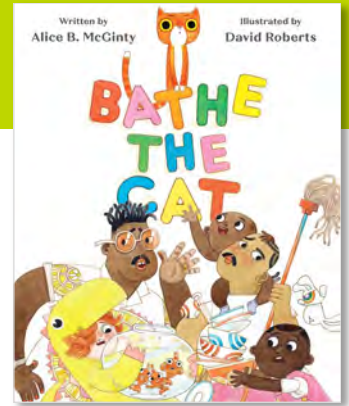


Bathe the Cat

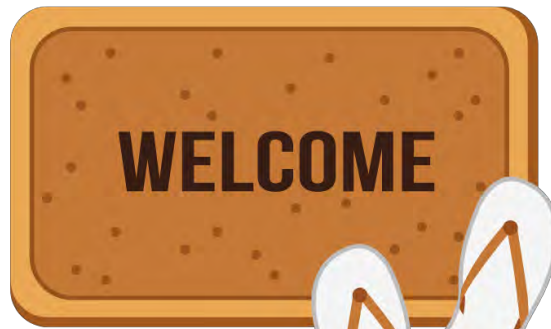
by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts

READING | Build a Word

This activity is best for older toddlers or preschoolers. You will need **magnet letters**. You will also need to print the images from this page and attach magnets to the back. With a dry-erase marker, draw a large refrigerator onto your magnet board (test the marker first to make sure it will erase). Choose one of the images and place it on the refrigerator. Work together to find the right letters to spell the word. Remind the children that letters make specific sounds. To make this easier, have a limited number of letters for the children to choose from.



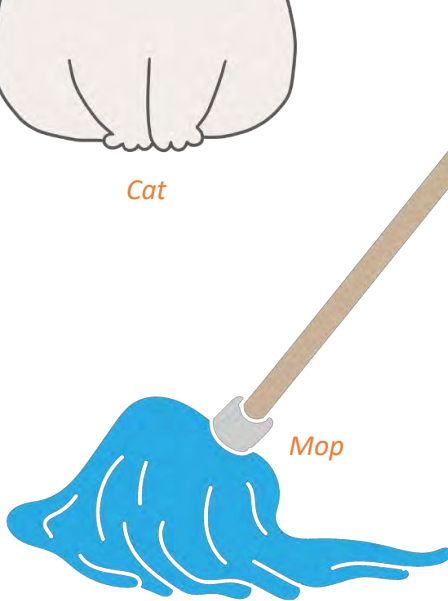
Cat



Mat



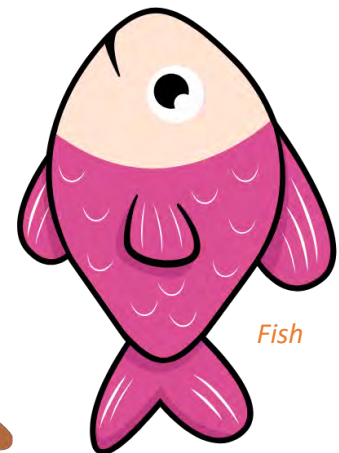
Example of Magnet Board.



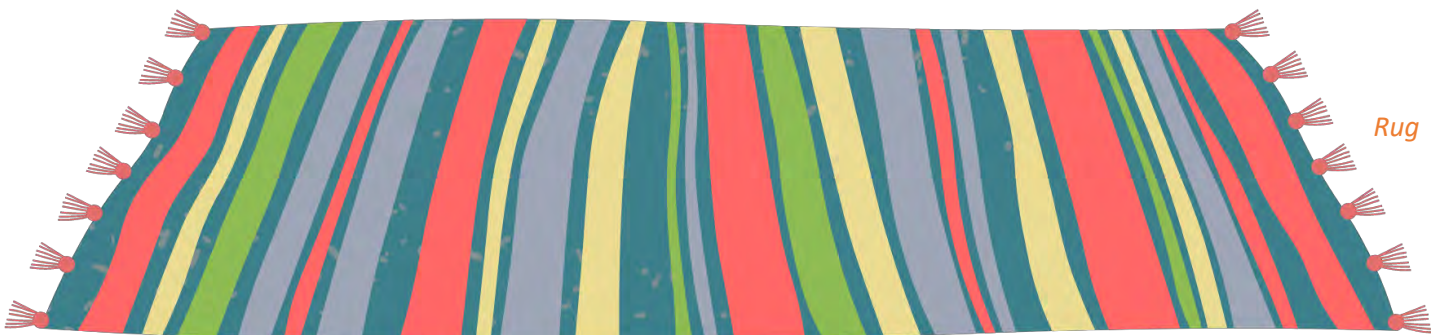
Mop



Baby



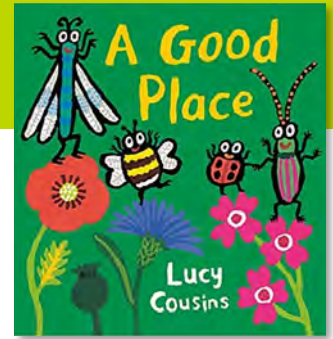
Fish



Rug

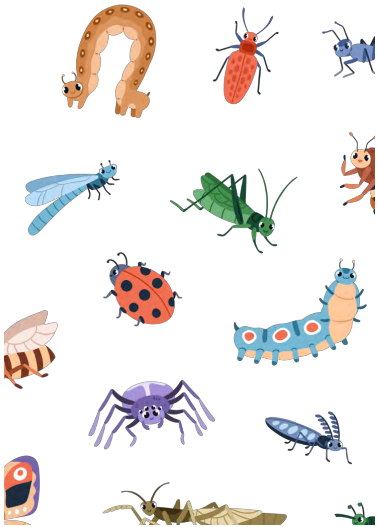
A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



A group of insects is looking for a good place to live. However, each place the friends turn they find pollution, trash, insecticide, and noisy people. Will they ever find a good place?

TALKING | Insects



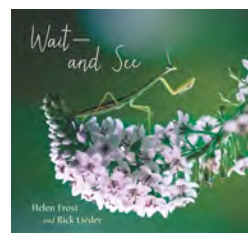
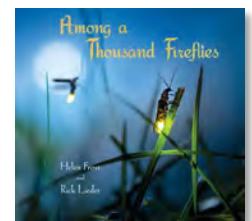
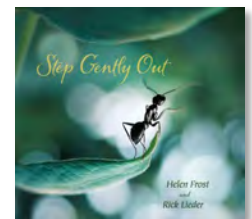
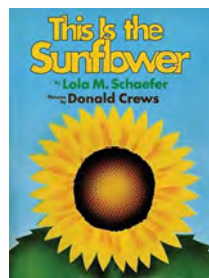
What do children think of when they think of insects? Many times, children think insects are gross, creepy, icky, scary, disgusting, ugly, or yucky. Insects have a bad reputation because many are considered pests that spread disease, cause destruction, or are generally a nuisance. However, even pests (like mosquitos) benefit humans by pollinating plants and participating in the food web feeding birds, bats, turtles, and spiders. Talk to the children about insects. Tell them about beneficial insects. What insects do children like most? You might get answers like butterflies, ladybugs, fireflies, ants, or crickets.

Like in the book, it's important for insects to have places to live. Without a home for bees, for example, many kinds of fruit cannot grow. Without insects as a food source, animals would die. Some insects clean up waste, so the world does not become full of rotting trash. Other insects eat pest insects that like to eat us! Insects are an important part of the natural world.

READING | The Natural World with Indiana Authors

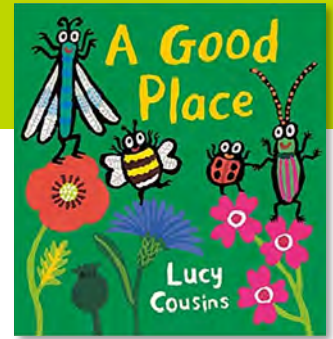
Indiana Authors have written hundreds of books about the natural world. We are lucky to have so many great authors who excel in writing picture books for young children about the Earth, insects, and the great outdoors. This list focuses exclusively on Indiana Authors who have written about insects and the Earth. Enjoy!

- Among a Thousand Fireflies* by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder
- Ant, Ant, Ant!: An Insect Chant* by April Pulley Sayre
- Anywhere Farm* by Phyllis Root
- Begin with a Bee* by Phyllis Root
- Earth & Me: Our Family Tree* by J. Patrick Lewis
- Face Bug* by J. Patrick Lewis
- Firenze's Light* by Jessica Collaço
- The Garden Symphony* by Victoria Kinter Griswold
- Honeybee* by Candace Fleming
- Mr. Mosquito Put On His Tuxedo* by Barbara Olenyik Morrow
- Monarch and Milkweed* by Helen Frost
- One Tomato* by Rebecca Mullin
- Pick, Pull, Snap!* by Lola M. Schaefer
- Step Gently Out* by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder
- Thank You, Earth* by April Pulley Sayre
- Touch a Butterfly* by April Pulley Sayre
- Trout Are Made of Trees* by April Pulley Sayre
- Wait and See* by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder
- Wake Up, Woods* by Michael Homoya and Shane Gibson



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



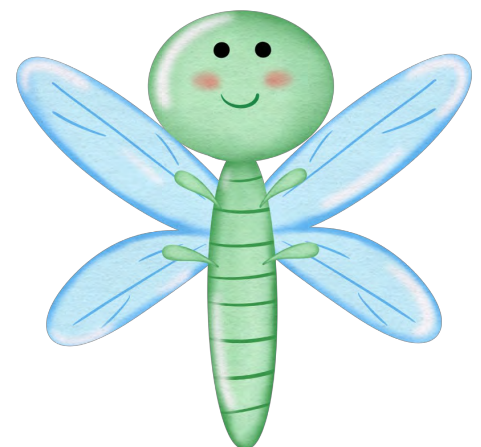
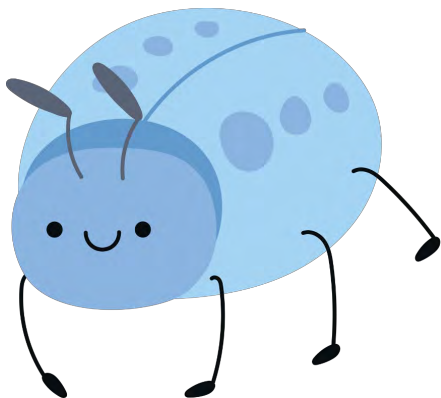
READING | Flannel Board Retelling

This is a very simple story that can be retold easily with a flannel or magnet board. For this activity, read through the book once with your storytimers. Then, explain that you need their help to retell the story without using the book. Start by introducing the four friends (Bee, Ladybug, Beetle, and Dragonfly). Then, use the flannel pieces to show what the friends wanted and where they tried to settle (dandelions/pavement, pond/road, dead log/rubbish, and leaves/spray). Introduce the butterfly as the hero who leads the friends to the last flannel piece, the beautiful garden.

Retelling stories is a wonderful way for children to practice narrative skills. Children with good narrative skills understand that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. This is an important early literacy pre-reading skill for young children to have.

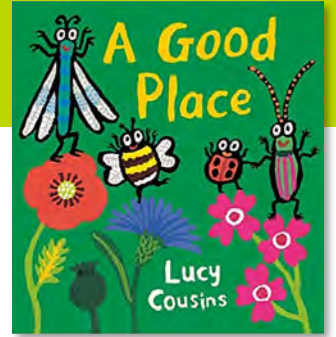


*Flannel pieces for retelling
A Good Place.*



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



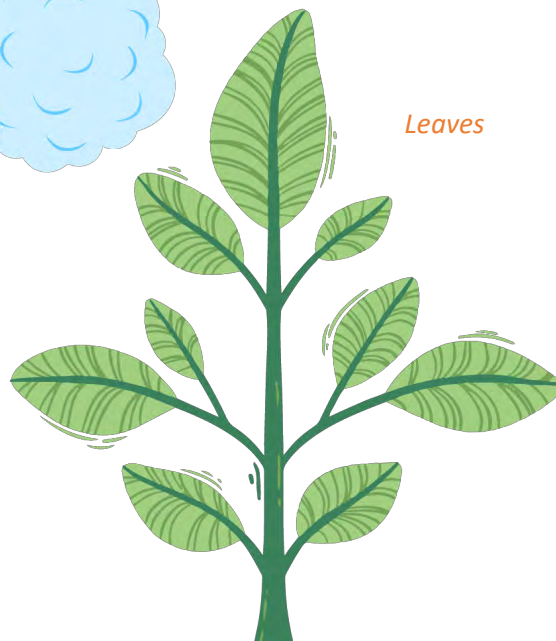
Pavement



Rubbish



Spray



Leaves

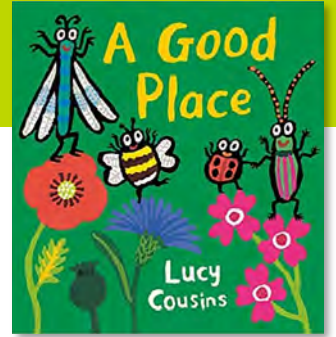


Dead Log

*Flannel pieces for retelling
A Good Place.*

A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



Flannel pieces for retelling

A Good Place.



Dandelions



Garden

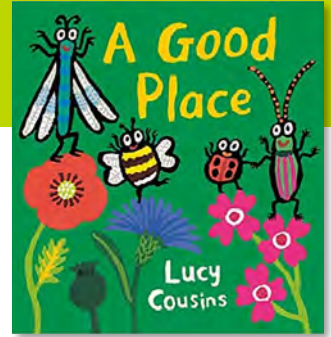
Pond



Road

A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



WRITING | Natural Dragonfly Craft

Making crafts out of natural materials can be a challenge for a variety of reasons: supplies don't look uniform, it's difficult to collect enough materials for everyone, kids might get dirty, and there's always the danger of encountering poisonous plants. That said, making crafts out of leaves and sticks can help children look at the outdoors in new ways. Additionally, the challenges involved are great for fostering a growth mindset. It's important to give children opportunities to try new things and even give them a chance to fail and try again. For this fairly simple (and economic) dragonfly craft you will need:

- Variety of leaves from trees
- Variety of twigs from trees
- Hole punch
- Tape
- Crayons
- Paper

Start by collecting your leaves and twigs. You can do this as a group, or you can collect them before the program. Make sure to pick up leaves and twigs from trees you know. Parents should stay alert. Like all crafts, we don't want children to eat the supplies (leaves or otherwise).

Sort through the leaves and sticks. Choose four leaves and one stem for each dragonfly. You might want to have larger leaves for the top wings and smaller leaves for the bottom wings, just like real dragonflies.

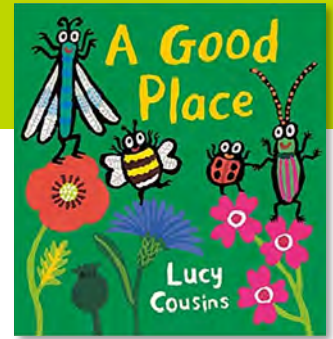
You can use the sticks to poke holes in the leaves, but it's much easier to have a few hole punches to pass around the room. Hole punch one hole at the base of each leaf and thread them on the sticks to make the shape of a dragonfly. From there, tape your dragonfly's body to your paper; one piece on the top of the stick and one on the bottom.

Children can draw a head and a face on their dragonfly if they so desire.



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins

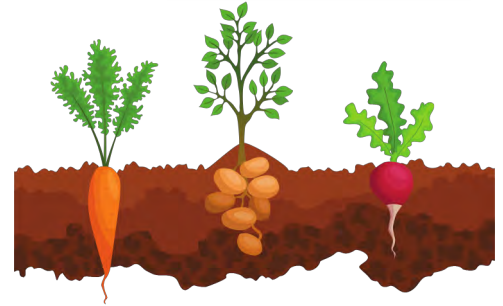


SINGING | Three Action Rhymes

Just like the friends in the book, real life insects love gardens. What types of gardens are your attendees familiar with? Flower gardens? Vegetable gardens? Fruit orchards? Gardens in parks? Talk about gardens then try these simple motion songs and chants.

CHANT | I Dig and Dig

I dig and dig and plant some seeds. (Make digging motions with hands.)
It rains and rains, I pull some weeds. (Make rain motions with hands.)
The sun comes out and then I know, (Make the sun come out with hands.)
Soon my vegetables will grow. (Make thumbs come up like growing plants.)



SONG | My Garden

Tune: Skip to My Lou

Shine, shine, sun in the sky,
Shine, shine, sun in the sky,
Shine, shine, sun in the sky,
Help me with my garden. (Sun motions with hands.)

Drip, drip, rain from the clouds... (repeat 2 x)
Help me with my garden. (Rain motions with hands.)

Buzz, buzz, bees from the hive... (repeat 2 x)
Help me with my garden. (Butterfly hands.)

Grow, grow, seeds in the dirt... (repeat 2 x)
Look at my beautiful garden!
(Growing plant motions with hands.)

SINGING | This Land is Your Land

This is a traditional folk song with a twist. The land *depends* on us. Consider printing out the words for your parents, projecting them on a screen, or just attaching a sheet to your magnet board with large letters so that grown-ups can sing along. Give it a real folk vibe by breaking out your guitar or ukulele.

D G D
This land is your land, this land is my land.

 A D
Let's work together, to make it better.

 G D
From tall green forests to clear blue waters,

A D
This land depends on you and me.

SONG | Ecology Song

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If you see a piece of paper, pick it up,
[binocular hands, miming picking up paper]
If you see a piece of paper, pick it up,
If you see a piece of paper, put it in a trash can later,
[mime putting in trash can]
If you see a piece of paper, pick it up.

If you find a pretty flower, let it grow,
[hand shading eyes, hands growing up]
If you find a pretty flower, let it grow,
If you find a pretty flower in lovely leafy bower,
If you find a pretty flower, let it grow.

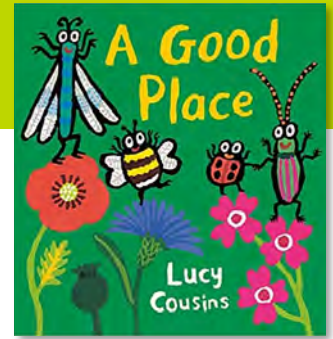
If you feel a little bug, brush it off,
[shrug, brush off your arms]
If you feel a little bug, brush it off,
If you feel a little bug, just remove it with a shrug,
If you feel a little bug, brush it off.

If you want a better world, do your part.
[clap, clap]
If you want a better world, do your part.
If you want a better world, so the earth is left unspoiled,
If you want a better world, do your part.



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



SINGING / BODY MOVEMENT | Great Songs About Bugs

Get out your scarves and lead your kiddos in a bug dance. You can pretend the scarves are insects dancing with you, or you can pretend that you yourself are a lovely, flying insect. Play one of these songs or choose one of your favorites. With babies, have parents interact with the children using the scarves.

- “All My Friends Are Insects” by Weezer
- “Bumblebee (Buzz Buzz)” by The Laurie Berkner Band
- “Crickets’ Ball” by Elliott Park
- “The Dragonfly Song” by Kahuna Kidsongs
- “Gillie the Grasshopper” by Katie Dwyer
- “Need the Bees” by fleaBITE
- “Pūrerehua (Butterfly)” by Music with Michal
- “To Bee or Not to Be” by Wendy and DB



TALKING | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Another great way to help the Earth is by setting the good example of reducing, reusing, and recycling in your storytimes. Start by cutting out harmful craft supplies.

CRAFT SUPPLIES TO AVOID:

Glitter – Glitter is a microplastic. When glitter ends up in a landfill, it can be leached into water systems and can make its way to the oceans. We already have a huge microplastic problem in the ocean. Don’t add to it with glitter. Sequins aren’t great either.

Substitute: Use the holes from your hole punch. You’ve got those on hand anyway!

Craft Foam – Craft foam is generally made out of ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) which biodegrades very slowly. It’s also difficult to recycle. For these reasons craft foam mostly ends up in landfills.

Substitute: Use biodegradable cardboard (cereal boxes are a great weight for crafting).

Feathers – Feathers in and of themselves are not actually bad for the environment, but did you know that most craft feathers are actually real feathers taken from chickens then dyed? They will biodegrade but if you are an animal lover, you might want to avoid buying them.

Substitute: Find a local source for your feathers. There are lots of folks with chickens.

Feathers that are naturally molted are a more animal friendly choice. Don’t forget to clean them well! Alternatively, just use construction paper cut into feather-like shapes. You can see an example of this on the bird costume on page 38.

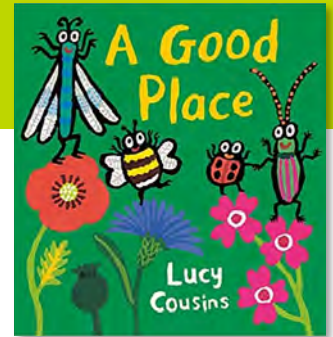
BODY MOVEMENT | Go on a Trash Walk

Even very small children can help their neighborhoods. Hand out gloves and coordinate a walk through a neighborhood. Bring trash bags and choose a block that is not too busy. You’ll be surprised how much trash you will find on quiet, residential streets. Young children in strollers can be surprisingly good at pointing out trash.



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



WRITING | Honeycomb Color Sheet

Bubble wrap makes a great honeycomb stamp. Lead the painting portion of this color sheet at the beginning of storytime and finish out the coloring part at the end after the paint has dried.

You will need:

- Copies of the Beehive Color Sheet
- Bubble Wrap
- Permanent Marker
- Crayons
- Tempera Paint (yellow or brown)
- Brushes
- Smocks for the children (optional)



Cut out the oval template for the honeycomb. Trace this onto a piece of cardboard. Cut out the cardboard oval. Now you have a sturdy template to cut out your bubble wrap. Trace your cardboard oval onto your bubble wrap using a permanent marker. You will have an easier time of it if you trace onto the flat side of the bubble wrap. Cut out an oval piece of bubble wrap for each child.

Prep your room by setting out a dixie cup and a paint brush for each child along with their piece of bubble wrap. Right before storytime starts squirt a little bit of paint into each cup. You won't need a lot.

For the craft, the children should paint the bumpy side of their bubble wrap then press it paint side down onto the color sheet over the beehive. Instruct them to cover their bubble wrap with paint all the way to the edges and use firm pressure to smooth the bubble wrap over the hive.

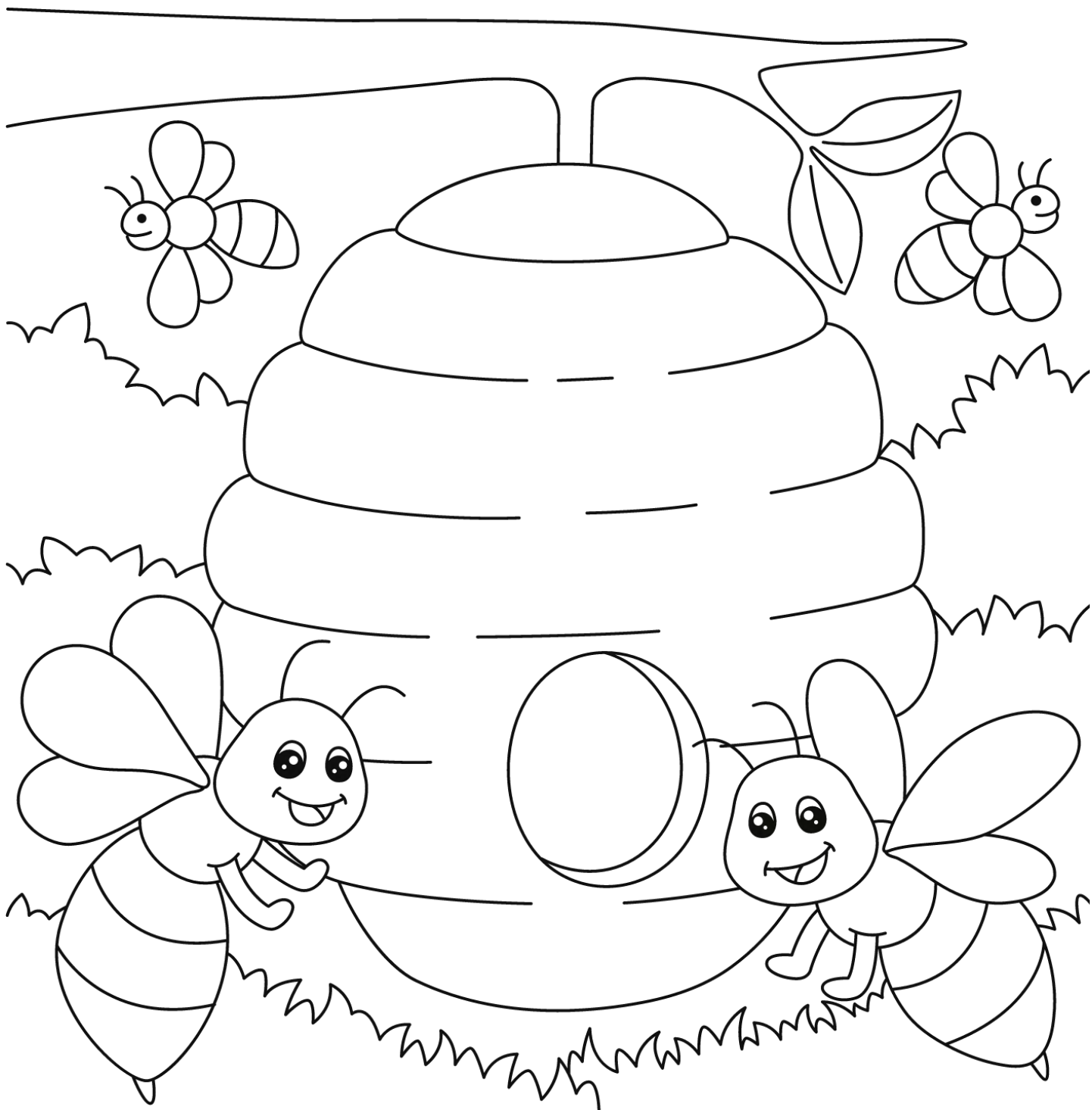
Peel the wrap off the sheet and presto! You have a beehive full of honeycombs.

Allow this to dry.

When dry allow the children to color the rest of the sheet.

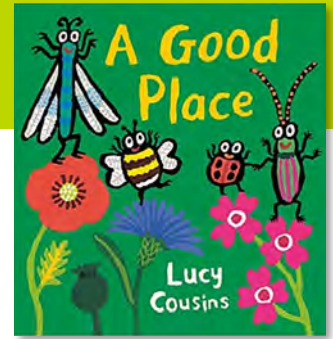
*Oval Template
for Honeycomb*

Name _____



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



BONUS CONTENT | Fireflies

Explore more content about insects in past Firefly program guides. In 2019 we included a special section all about our namesake, the firefly! Be sure to check it out for additional content about insects including the movement song *Head, Thorax, Abdomen*; a few cute firefly activities; and more flannel boards. In 2020 we celebrated the book *Firefly Home*. So much firefly content! Be sure to take a look.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Storytime Kits

The Indiana State Library has dozens of storytimes kits ready for you to use. Kits that cover nature themes include the following: Apples, Bears, Butterflies, Chicks, Earth Love, Fish, Gardening, Nocturnal Animals, Seasons, and Water. Kits are reserved through the KitKeeper System and are delivered through INFO Express. Storytime kits check out for three months and include books, manipulatives, storytime plans, flannel boards, toys, and other items. If you've never tried one, make this the summer that you check out a storytime kit from the Indiana State Library. Find out more at our website:

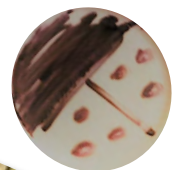
<https://www.in.gov/library/services-for-libraries/kits/>.



PLAYING | Ladybug Sensory Bin

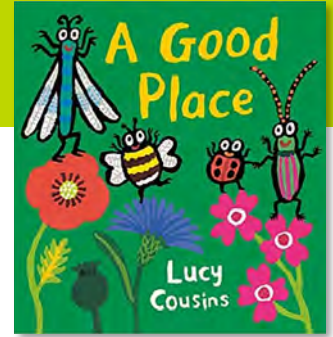
Put together this quick and easy sensory bin that reuses plastic lids. All you need are dried split peas, black markers, and plastic lids from food containers like milk jugs. Red is obviously the most realistic, but any color works. If you can't get enough from your home, ask library staff to help. Lids without "Use By Dates" stamped on top are the most desirable.

Pour the peas into a plastic bin. To make the ladybugs, simply decorate your lids with a black, permanent marker. Add the lids to your bin and presto! Kids will be lining up to sink their hands into this sensory rich experience. Make clean up easy by putting your bin on a tablecloth or towel.



A Good Place

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins



STEM | Plant Wild Sunflowers

Insects rely on many plants. Monarch larvae eat the leaves of the milkweed plant then grow into beautiful butterflies. Ants, who do awesome work aerating our soil, love the nectar inside a peony. Ladybugs (or ladybirds as the British call them) eat pest insects and love to munch on the leaves of many kinds of plants including butterfly weed and dandelions. Provide a helpful plant to the bees in your area by planting wild sunflowers. Wild sunflowers are beneficial to bees because they produce a huge amount of nectar and pollen. Wild sunflowers are native to Indiana and grow fast, so it's an easy plant to grow for storytime.

Use **biodegradable containers** so it will be easy to transfer your plants to the ground when they get big. Examples include cardboard egg containers, containers made of folded newsprint, toilet paper rolls with the end folded down, and many others. Search the internet to see if you can find more options. It is not recommended to use cake ice cream cones (despite the cute pictures you'll find). This will cause mold growth. Ideally your pots will be 4 inches x 4 inches.

When doing this for storytime, you have two choices. Plant seeds with your group then send all the pots home with your families, or plant the seeds, label everyone's pots, and keep them in the library for the 6-8 weeks of your summer reading program. The seeds should sprout in 7-10 days and should grow a lot during the summer. Each week the children can observe and even measure how much their plants grow.

You will need:

- Wild Sunflower Seed (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Biodegradable Pots (see above)
- Soil (ask your local garden store for specifics)
- Trowels or large spoons
- Spray bottle
- Popsicle sticks
- Markers



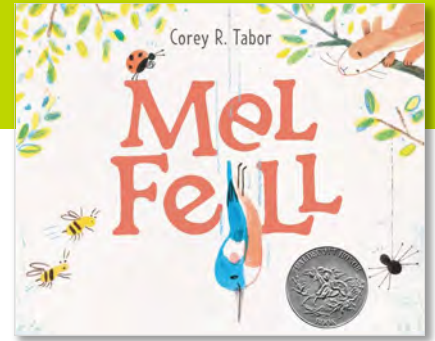
Set up a planting station. Put your soil bag in a large, shallow plastic bin on a table. Bins that provide under-the-bed storage are perfect. Set out pots for your participants in the bin. Caregivers and children can take turns filling their pots with soil and pressing 4-6 seeds less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch into the soil. Spray the soil until it is nice and moist. Make name markers by writing the children's names on the end of a popsicle stick and inserting them into the pot near an edge. Clean up should be easy, with most of the dirt falling back into the bin. Keep all your plants in a shoebox or other container in direct sunlight for at least part of the day. Morning sun and afternoon shade is perfect. Keep the seeds moist and watch them grow! Visit this website to find the specific sunflowers that are native to your county:

<https://indiana.plantatlas.usf.edu/Genus.aspx?id=402>.



Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



Mel, a baby kingfisher, is ready to learn to fly! Follow her journey as she falls down, down, down. Will she crash? Explore this dynamic picture book (that opens at the top!) to find out.

TALKING | Kingfishers and Birds Generally

Birds need our help. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service millions of acres of bird habitat are lost every year due to development, agriculture, and forestry practices. Birds are also affected by climate change. Birds are disappearing and that is bad for humans. We need birds. Birds pollinate certain foods we eat like bananas and papayas. Birds eat pesky insects that can make us sick. Moreover, birdwatching is a fulfilling hobby and lifestyle for millions of people across the globe. Birds are an essential part of the world that we all inhabit, and we should help them any way we can.

Before reading the book, ask your participants how many birds they can name. With prompting they might mention birds like the cardinal, bluebird, robin, canary, hummingbird, crow, woodpecker, finch, owl, swan, chicken, turkey, goose, and duck. What other birds do they know? Does anyone have a pet bird? Show a picture of the belted kingfisher (page 31). This is the only type of kingfisher that lives in Indiana. Have your patrons ever seen this bird out in the wild? For more information on the belted kingfisher visit the Indiana Audubon Society (<https://indianaudubon.org/2010/10/25/belted-kingfisher/>).

Now, show the cover of the book and explain that Mel is also a kingfisher. Explain that there are different kinds of kingfishers, including the biggest one of all, the kookaburra. Learn more about kingfishers with help from the San Diego Zoo (<https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/index.php/animals/kingfisher>).

READING | Birds of a Feather

Mel is a baby bird. Explore stories about fledglings, bird watching, and all kinds of birds using this list:

- *Bird Watch* by Christie Matheson
- *Birds* by Kevin Henkes
- *Birds* by Carme Lemniscates
- *Chirp* by Mary Murphy
- *Fly!* by Mark Teague
- *Hello, I'm Here* by Indiana Author Helen Frost
- *Hooray for Birds!* by Lucy Cousins
- *Round of Robins* by Indiana Author Katie Hesterman
- *Ruby's Birds* by Mya Thompson
- *Ten on a Twig* by Lo Cole
- *Time to Fly* by George Ella Lyon



TALKING and PLAYING | Be a Bird

Have the children pretend to be birds. Challenge them to think about details. What size are they? What color feathers would they have? Would they have a long beak or a short one? What would they eat? Where would they live? Can they fly? Walk? Swim? What sounds would they make? Get the grown-ups and children talking together about the kinds of birds they can pretend to be. For added accuracy, explore bird sounds and see if the children can replicate the sounds themselves (<https://www.bird-sounds.net/>).

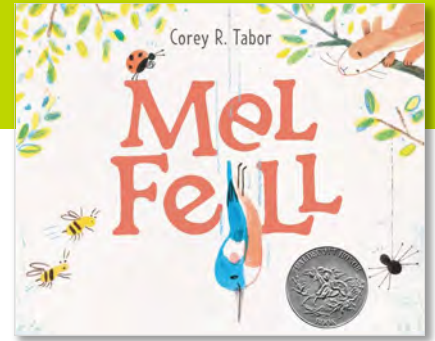
Play one of the songs below (or another of your favorites) and encourage your participants to fly, strut, peck, or step just like the birds they are pretending to be. Pair this with a workshop to make grocery bag bird costumes (pages 38 and 39) for even more theatrical fun.

Birds Rock album by Pete Moss
"House Wren" by Owl City
"I'm Like a Bird" by Nelly Furtado
"Little Birdie" by Vince Guaraldi
"Rockin' Robin" by Bobby Day

"Birdhouse in Your Soul" by They Might Be Giants
"Blackbird" by the Beatles (Kidz Bop Kids)
"Chicken" by StoryBots
"Feed the Birds (Tuppence a Bag)" with Julie Andrews
"Let's All Sing Like the Birdies Sing" by The Tweets

Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



WRITING and GROWTH MINDSET | Binocular Craft / Birdwatching Sheet

Birdwatching is a popular pastime you can introduce at your storytimes. Basically, all you need are binoculars, a field guide to identifying birds, and a notebook for recording the bird you saw (and when and where you saw it). Coordinate a bird walk as part of a program or encourage your patrons to go on a bird walk on their own. Birding is great for children because it helps them develop a relationship with nature and gives them a chance to practice observing the natural world around them. In today's busy world it's difficult to find time to stay still in nature.

Depending on your budget, you might be able to purchase low-cost cardboard binoculars for children like the ones pictured here, or you can make this simple binocular craft out of toilet paper tubes. Despite having no magnification, toilet-paper tube binoculars still help children focus while birdwatching, and the children will be more curious to use the real thing in the future. Be sure to take along a good birdwatching guide. Below are three North American guides written for children. Make copies of the birdwatching sheet (following page) and attach it to clipboards for ease of use. For more information on birdwatching in Indiana visit:



<https://www.visitindiana.com/blog/post/indiana-birdwatching/>.

Can't get outside? Print out the images of real birds that correspond to the birdwatching sheet (page 31) and perch (or tape) them around your storytime space. How many birds can your patrons find? Encourage the children to color the birds on their sheet as they find them. Happy birding!

Bird Watching Guides for Kids

- *Birds of Indiana Coloring Book for Kids, Teens, and Adults: A Collection of 50 Common & Unique Birds of Indiana for Bird Watchers to Identify and Color* by Sam Morrison
- *The Most Popular Birds of North America: Bird Watching Guide for Kids* by Nona Kid
- *Bird Watch Book for Kids: Introduction to Bird Watching, Colorful Guide to 25 Popular Backyard Birds, and Journal Pages* by Dylanna Press

For the binocular craft you will need:

- Two toilet paper rolls for each child
- Masking tape or rubber bands
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Paint (optional)
- Markers (optional)



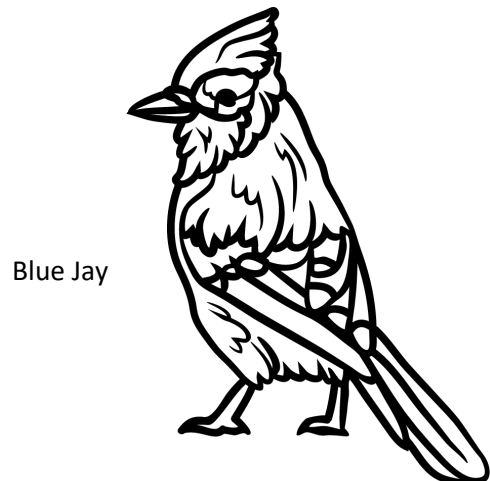
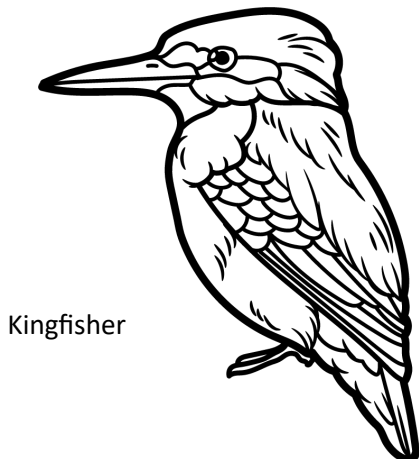
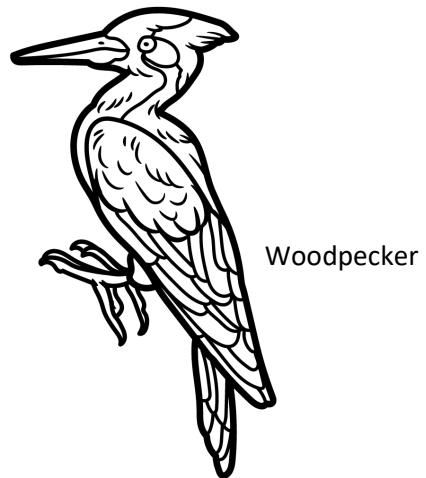
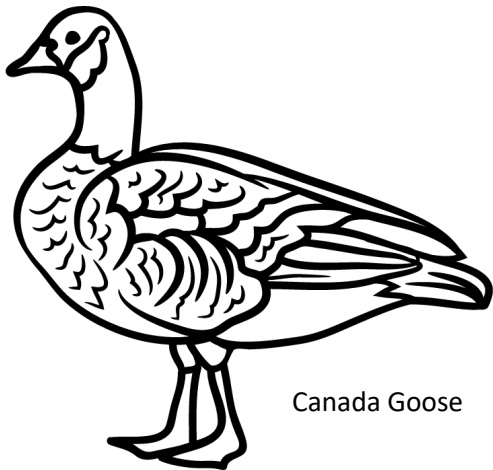
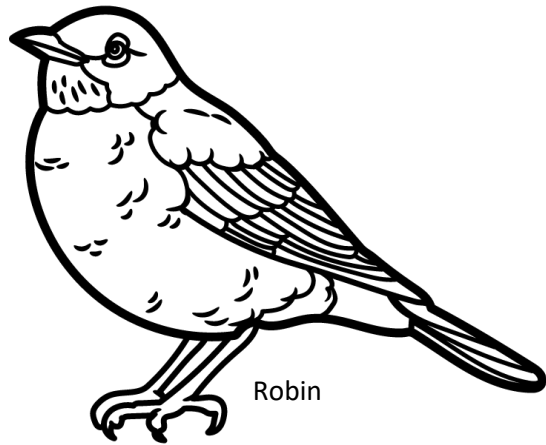
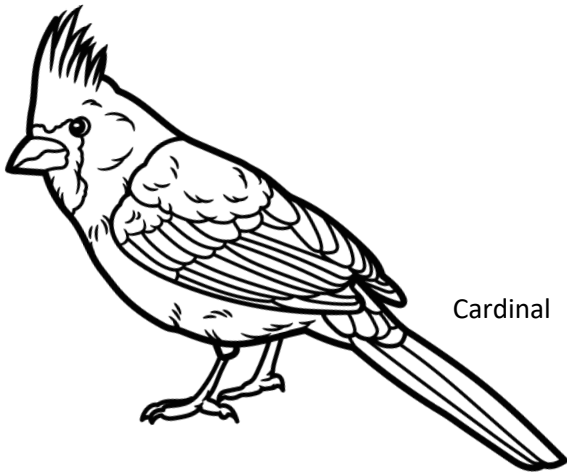
This craft can be as simple or as complex as you like. If you want fancy binoculars, have the children decorate their toilet paper rolls before assembling the craft. You can use any art supplies you have lying around including paint, markers, crayons, stickers, washi tape, construction paper, etc. Then direct the children to tape their toilet paper rolls together using long strips of masking tape. Alternatively, children can simply snap two rubber bands around their toilet rolls to assemble their binoculars. Parents can help hole-punch one hole on each side of the binoculars in order to tie a piece of yarn from one end of the binoculars to the other. Leave plenty of slack so the child can wear the binoculars around the neck. *String worn around the neck can be a strangling hazard for children. Use caution.*



Name _____

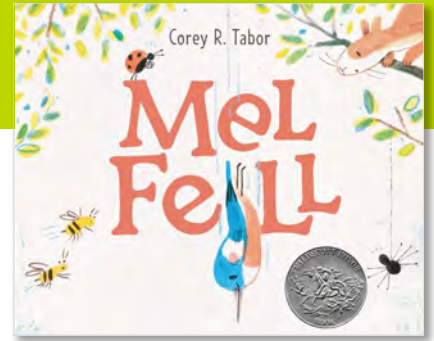
My Birdwatching Sheet

Today is: _____ . I'm looking for birds in this area: _____ .



Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



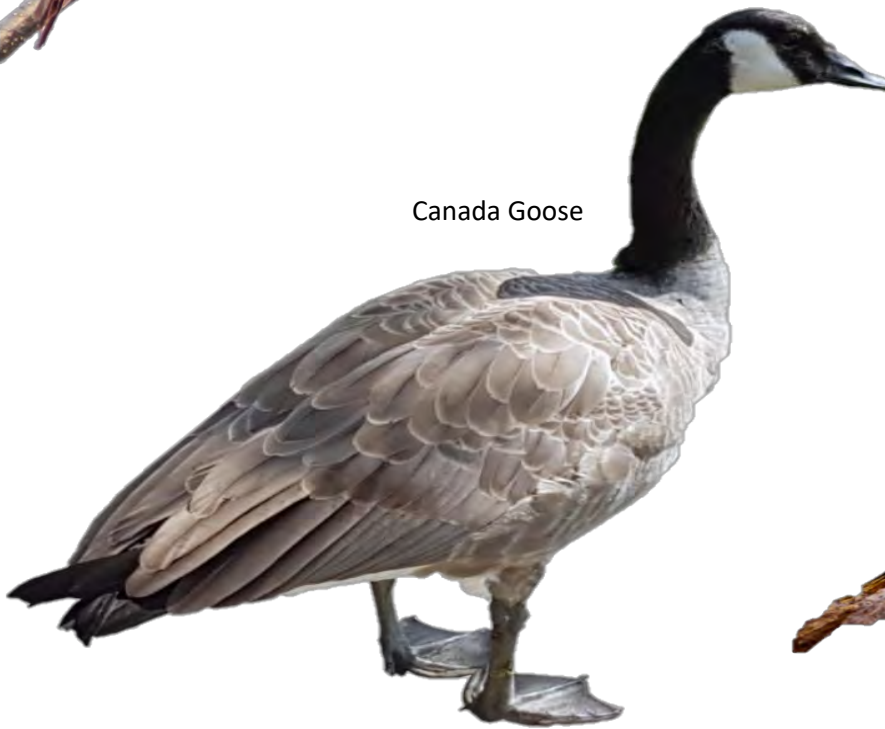
Cardinal



Robin



Canada Goose



Woodpecker



Belted Kingfisher

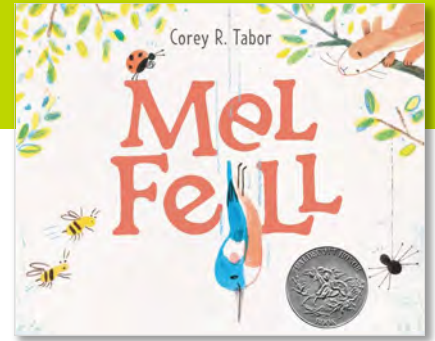


Blue Jay



Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



STEM and SINGING | Five Baby Birds

Counting backwards is a great skill for little ones as it is a precursor to subtraction. Prep the five kingfishers for your magnet board and lead the children in counting as you take one away with each stanza of this rhyme.

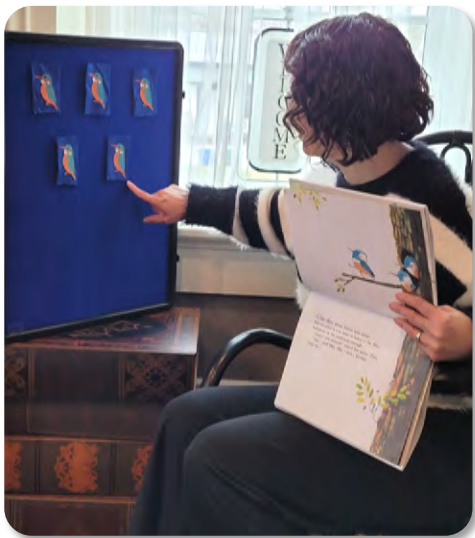
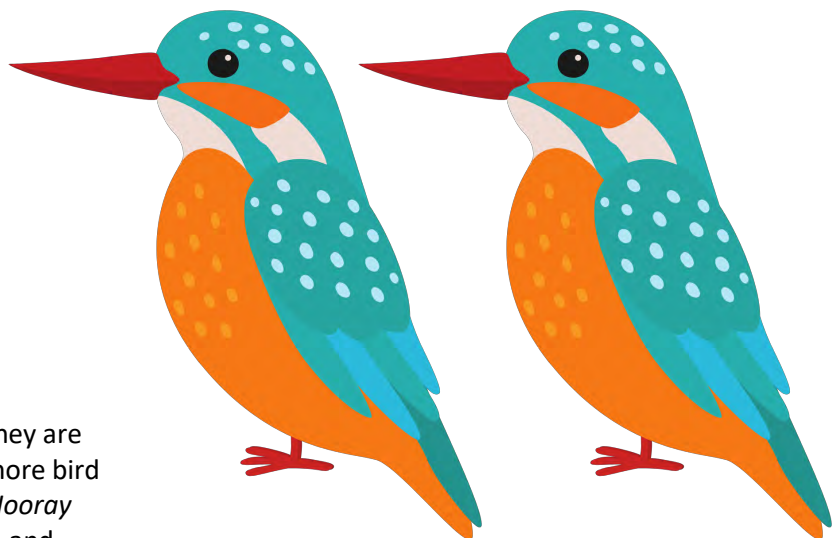
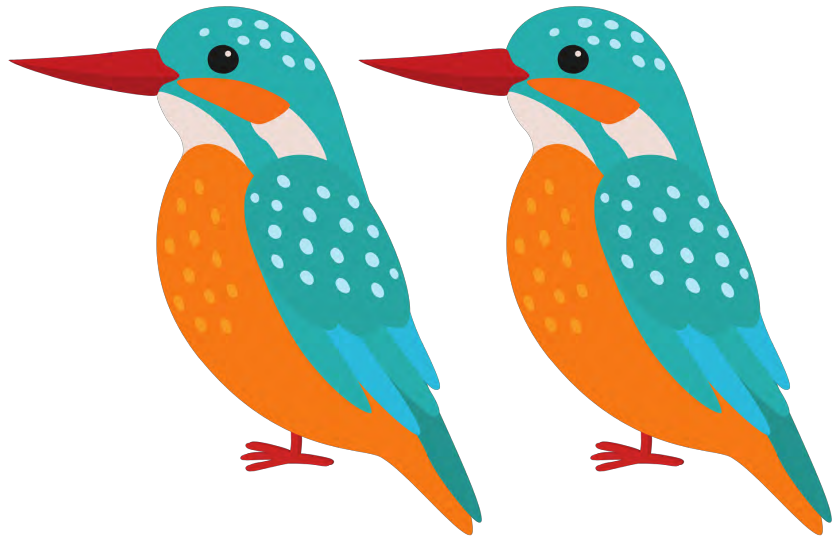
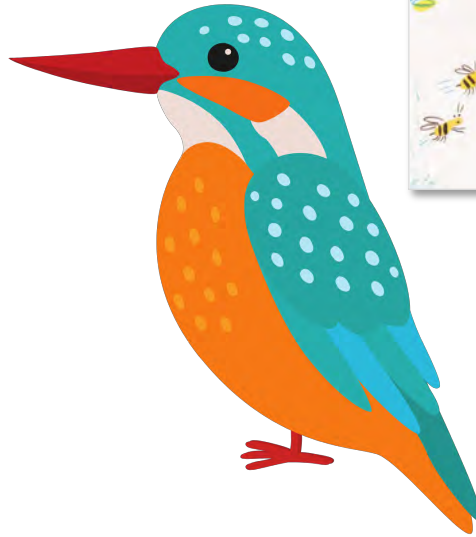
*Five baby birds watch mommy bird soar.
One leaves the nest and then there are four.*

*Four baby birds, high up in a tree.
One leaves to catch a worm and then there are three.*

*Three baby birds have nothing to do.
One flaps her wings and then there are two.*

*Two baby birds frolic in the sun.
One spies a bug and then there's just one.*

*One baby bird left all alone,
This baby bird decides to just stay at home.
Sigh contentedly.*

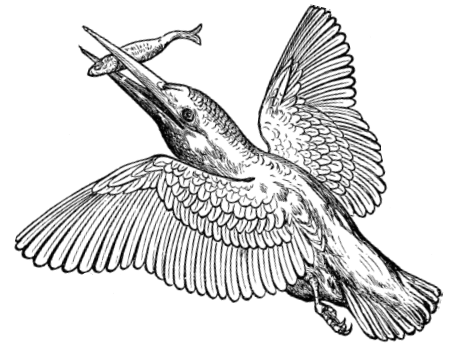
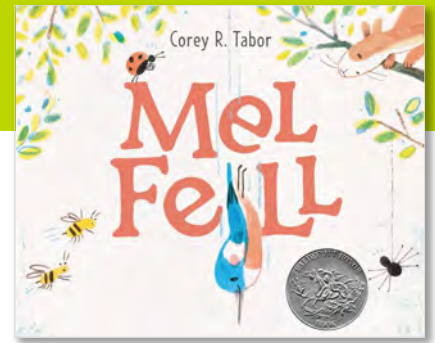


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Past Firefly Manuals

If you've never delved into past Firefly Manuals, they are all still available on the Firefly webpage. For lots more bird action, be sure to check out the 2018 guide. The *Hooray for Birds* section has lots more birdie crafts, songs, and fingerplays. <https://www.in.gov/library/icb/firefly/>

Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



WRITING / PLAYING | Simple Paper Glider Craft

Young ones will be delighted with this paper glider that is easy to make and even easier to fly. This craft is best done with grown-ups. The grown-ups can do the finicky folding and the children can do the coloring, taping, and can launch the gliders over and over again. If these directions are not clear, search YouTube for *How To Make A Paper Circle Glider Airplane that Flies like a Bird!* by Crafts and Art. The directions are essentially the same.

You will need:

- Kingfisher Glider Handout
- Scissors
- Tape
- Crayons or Markers (optional)

Step one: Cut off the portion of the handout indicated so that you are working with a square.

Step two: Allow the children to color and decorate their Kingfisher Glider square.

Step three: Fold handout corner to corner diagonally to make a triangle. Crease your fold. Do not fold through the kingfisher image. Fold along the dotted line. Open the paper.

Step four: Orient the square so the crease runs horizontally across the paper and the kingfisher is looking down. Take the bottom corner and fold it up so the point just meets the black dot.

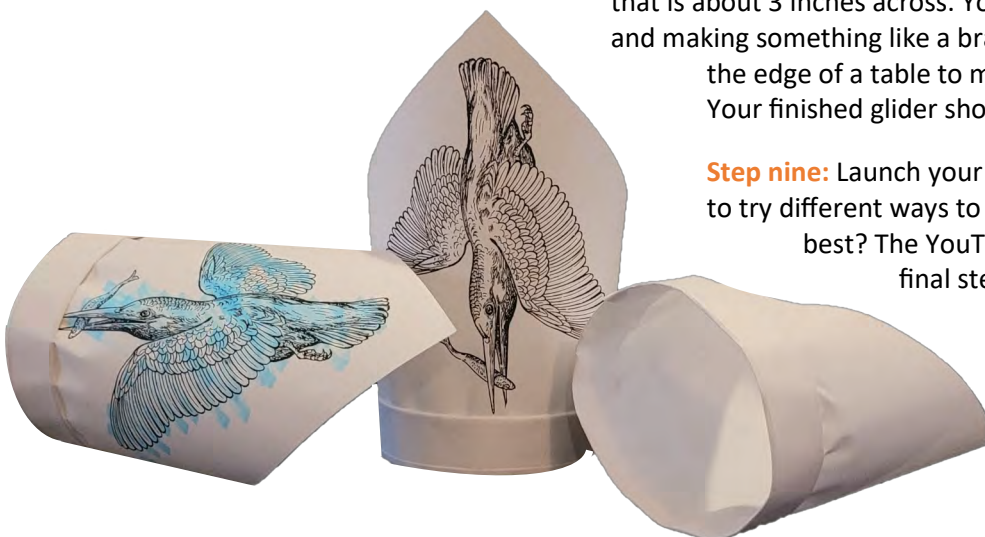
Step five: Take the folded bottom edge and fold it up over what you already folded so the folded bottom edge just meets the middle crease and the dotted line.

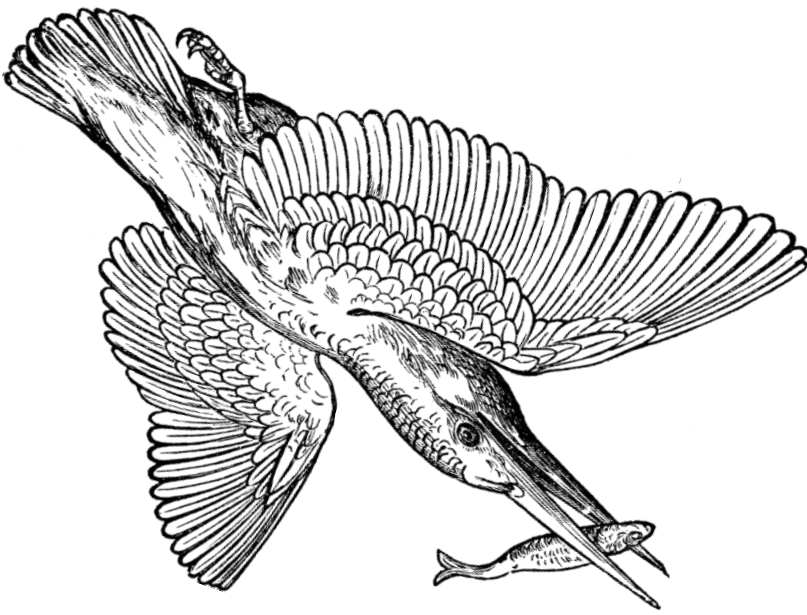
Step six: Repeat step five.

Step seven: You should now have a thick stack of folds that is about 3/4 of an inch wide. Fold this whole stack over on itself so it just meets the edge of the kingfisher's beak.

Step eight: Working with the folded edge, roll your glider into a circle that is about 3 inches across. You are sort of taking your rolled edge and making something like a bracelet. You may need to run it along the edge of a table to make a smooth circle. Attach with tape. Your finished glider should have the shape of a bishop's hat.

Step nine: Launch your gliders. Give children lots of chances to try different ways to launch their gliders. Which way works best? The YouTube video referenced above shows a final step that may add stability to your glider. Feel free to try that as well!





Fold. Don't cut!



Kingfisher Glider

Step one: Cut off the portion of the handout indicated so that you are working with a square. Decorate your square.

Step two: Fold square corner to corner diagonally to make a triangle. Crease your fold. Do not fold through the kingfisher image. Fold along the dotted line. Open the paper.

Step three: Take bottom corner and fold it up so the point just meets the middle crease and the black dot.

Step four: Take the folded bottom edge and fold it up so the folded bottom edge meets the middle crease / dotted line.

Step five: Repeat step four.

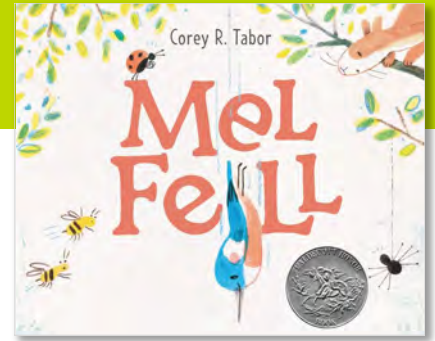
Step six: You should now have a thick stack of folds that is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide. Fold this whole stack over on itself so it just meets the edge of the kingfisher's beak.

Step seven: Roll your glider into a circle that is about 3 inches across. You are sort of taking your rolled edge and making something like a bracelet. Attach with tape. Your finished glider should have the shape of a bishop's hat.

Step eight: Launch your glider.

Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



SINGING | The Kingfisher Bird

by Will Smither

Pair this rhyme with hand motions for an informative and fun activity written especially for the Firefly Guide.

*The kingfisher bird
Sits way up high (put hand in the air)
Waiting for a fish
To swim on by (wiggle movement with hand)*

*The kingfisher's head (hands on your head)
Moves left and right (turn head left and right)
To catch a fish
In its sight (shade eyes with hand)*

*The kingfisher bird
Swoops on down (swooshing motion with hand)
When it spots a fish
Swimming around (swimming motion with hand)*

*The kingfisher bird
Has excellent eyes (point to eyes)
Watching the water
As it flies (spread arms)*

*The kingfisher's beak
Is pointy and long (finger on nose then pull it away)
It goes under water (swoop your hand down)
But not for long (shake head 'no')*

*The kingfisher bird
Grabs a fish to eat (snapping motion with hand)
Pops out of the water (sit up very straight)
With its tasty treat (pretend to eat)*



SINGING | This Is the Way Birdie Action Rhyme

*This is the way you scratch for worms, (scrape feet on floor)
scratch for worms, scratch for worms.
This is the way you scratch for worms,
When you are a birdie.*

Additional verses:

*This is the way you peck your food. (poke downward with nose)
This is the way you sit on your eggs. (sit still)
This is the way you flap your wings. (wave arms)
This the way you fly away. (wave arms while swaying)*

SINGING | Kookaburra



“Kookaburra” is a classic children’s song about the Australian kingfisher bird, the kookaburra. It’s an easy tune to play on a guitar or ukulele since it only uses two chords. Children will love saying the word “kookaburra.” If you are not sure of the tune, you can easily find it on YouTube.

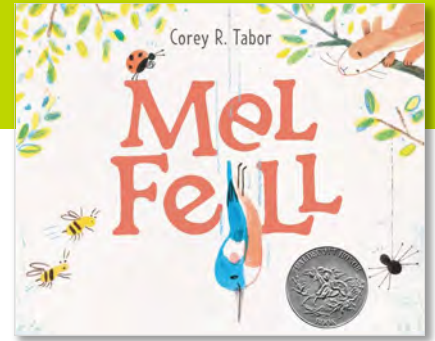
G C G
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
G C G
Merry, merry king of the bush is he.
G C G C
Laugh, kookaburra, laugh, kookaburra.
G C G
Gay your life must be.

G C G
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
G C G
Eating all the gumdrops he can see.
G C G C
Stop, kookaburra, stop, kookaburra.
G C G
Leave some there for me.

G C G
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
G C G
Counting all the wombats he can see.
G C G C
Stop, kookaburra, stop, kookaburra.
G C G
That's not a wombat, that's me.

Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



PLAYING | Catch the Fish Game

The whole reason that Mel wants to learn to fly is so she can start fishing. Practice hand-eye coordination with this fun and easy fishing game.

You will need:

- A strong magnet
- Metal paperclips that are attracted to your magnet (do a test)
- Dowel rods or pencils (dowel rods look more realistic)
- Yarn or string
- Blue construction paper
- Several paper fish
- Two paper kingfisher birds
- Tape

Prepare: Make a simple lake by taping two sheets of blue construction paper together and rounding off the edges. Add some wave effects with a white crayon if you like.

Print out a few copies of the fish sheet (next page) and cut out the fish. You can print these on cardstock if you'd like them to be sturdier. Attach a paperclip to each fish.

Tie a string around your magnet. Make sure it's tight. You may have to go around all four sides like you are wrapping a present. Attach the magnet to a pencil or dowel rod with a long piece of yarn or string. Print out the kingfisher birds shown here and attach one to each side of your magnet. It should look like a bird at the end of a string. Make as many bird/magnet/rod combos as you like. One will suffice if you are encouraging your kiddos to take turns, which is a great growth mindset practice.

For the activity: Dangle the birds over the lake. How many fish can the kingfisher catch? Can you direct the child to catch fish of a certain color?

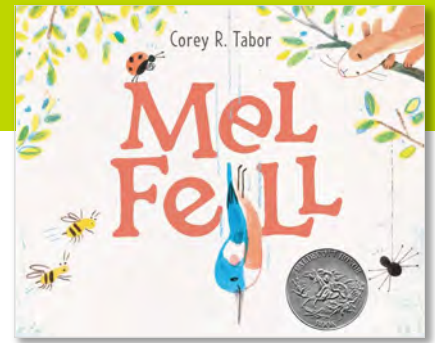
If you want to boost the science side of this activity, take the magnets off a few of the fish. Why can't the bird catch the fish? Switch out some of the metal paperclips to plastic ones. Why can't the bird catch those fish?

To up the art, consider making simple fish outlines for the children to color. Can they make the bird catch their special fish?

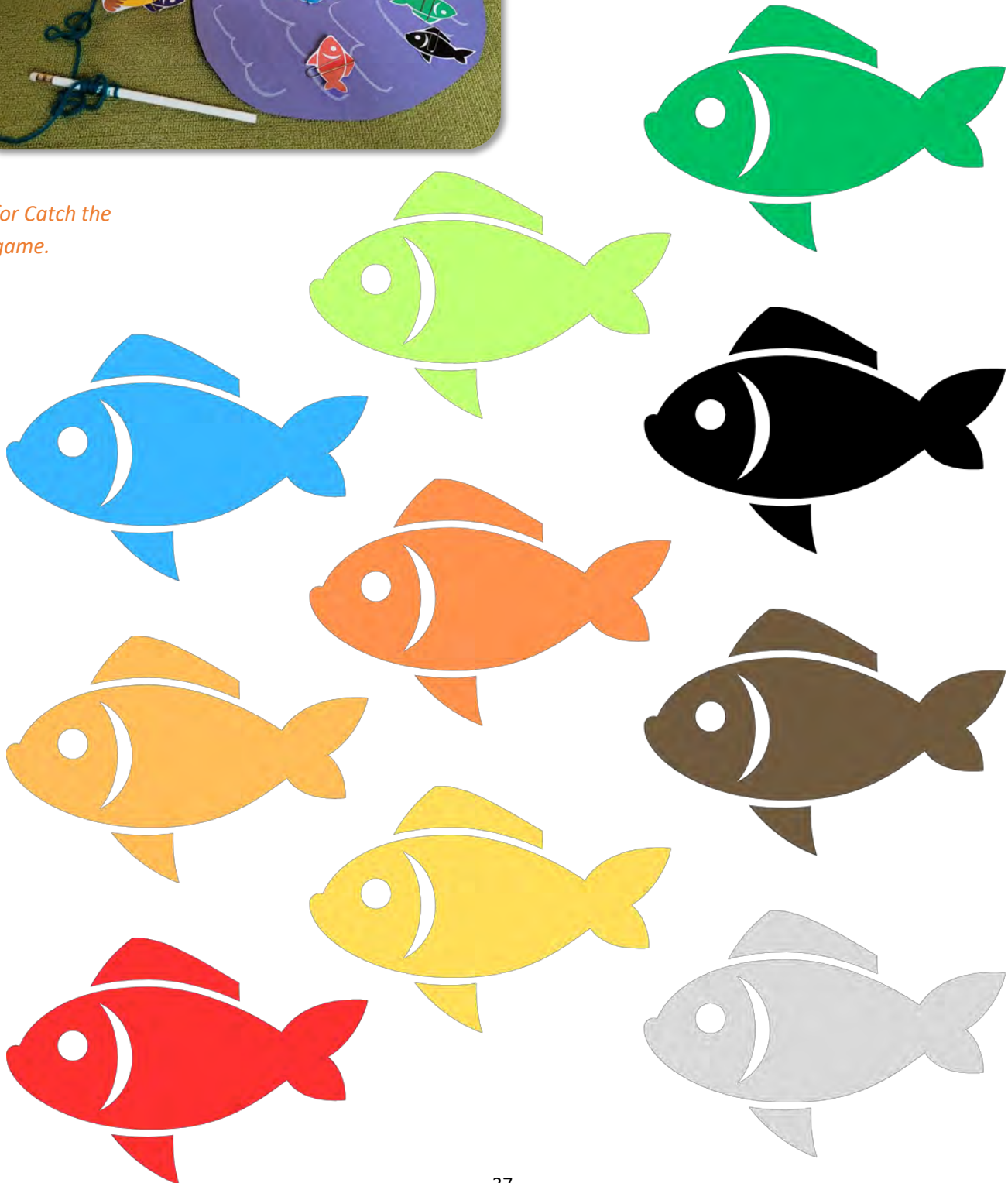


Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor

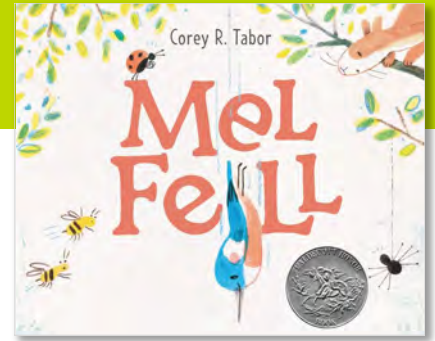


Fish for Catch the Fish game.



Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



WRITING and PLAYING | Paper Bag Bird Costume

Paper bags at grocery stores are not as common as they used to be, but you can still get brown paper sacks for free at many stores. For this craft you will need two paper bags per child. Have volunteers help you gather enough bags or partner with an area grocery store to get bags in bulk.

Each child will have the opportunity to create a bird costume, complete with wings and a beak. This activity requires a lot of space and might work best as a dedicated workshop. Once the costumes are complete, encourage the children to act like birds following the *Be a Bird* activity on page 28. Pretending and make believe are great pre-reading activities because they reinforce the idea that one thing (a child dressed up like a bird) can stand in for something else (a real bird), much like letters and words stand for real concepts.



You will need:

- Two brown paper grocery sacks
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Tape



Prep this craft by cutting out the arm holes. You might do this ahead of time as it is definitely a job for grown-ups. Arm holes should be generous. Use tear-drop shapes illustrated on the bag diagram on the next page.

Cut out the hole for the head. This should be large enough so the child's head will fit through, but small enough so their shoulders do not emerge. Start with a hole that is around 6.5 inches across and allow parents or caregivers to make adjustments later.

Many children will be able to slip their sack over the head like a tee-shirt, however, some children may prefer to wear their costume like a button-up shirt, with yarn that laces up the front or back. For this style, you'd cut a straight line up from the bottom of the bag all the way up to the head hole. Lace it up by punching holes and threading yarn down the front or back of the costume, similar to lacing a tennis shoe.

For the program, start by having the children color Bag One their desired color. They should color the front and the back of the bag. They can leave the sides and top of the of the bag blank. They are tricky to color!

Now, have the children color the beak circle and wings on Bag Two. They might want the beak to be a different color from the rest of the costume. **Next, have the children color the back of bag two.** This is for the feathers.

From here, it's all about cutting and taping. **Cut out the beak and the wings first.** It might be helpful to draw out the wing shapes and the beak circle on each bag before the program. Wings should attach at the shoulders over the arm holes. **Next cut out a bunch of feather shapes.** Cutting the feathers should be fluid and fun. Don't get too hung up on the shapes. Just cut feather-ish shapes. Allow the children to help. Your costume will have more depth and texture if you keep some of the feathers brown.

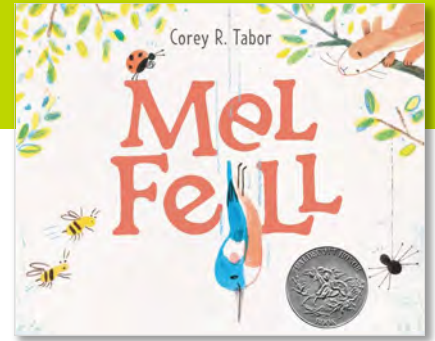
From there, the child can tape feathers wherever they desire. Now, have them put on the costume and start acting like a bird! Tweet, tweet!

Beak Directions

Draw a circle on Bag 2 as shown on the diagram. Have the child color the circle their desired beak color. Cut out the beak. Cut a slit from the edge of the circle to the center. Form the circle into a cone and tape. A tighter cone will be pointier and a looser cone will be flatter. Hole punch each side and tie a piece of yarn around the child's head to attach the beak over their nose. Bird time!

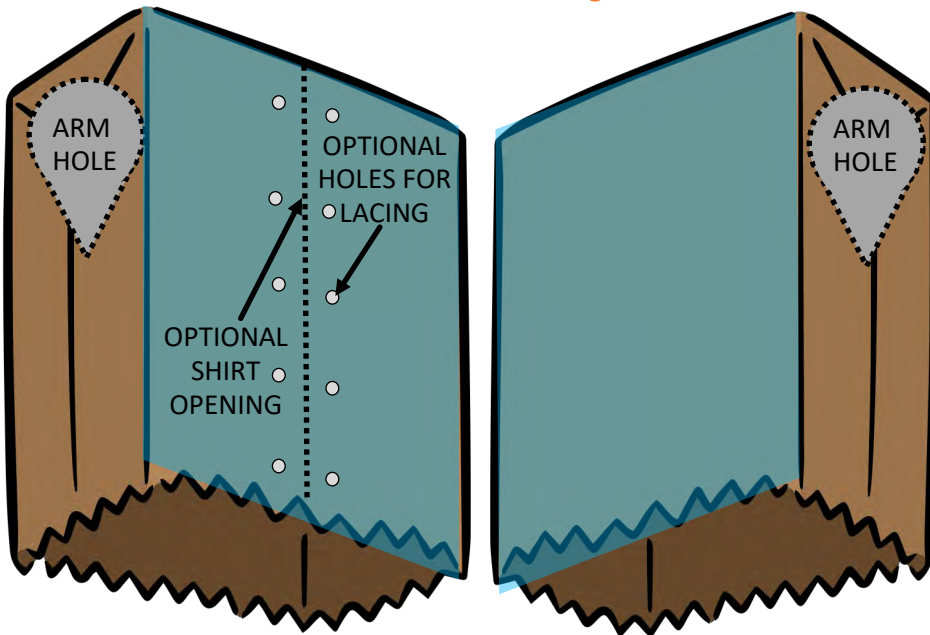
Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor

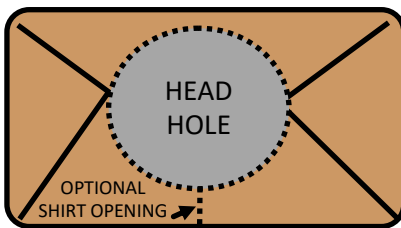


Bag One: Side A

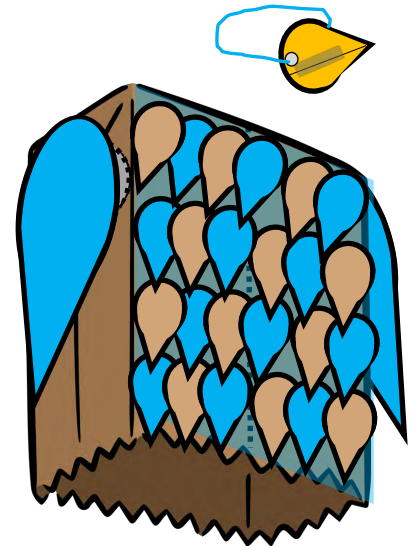
Bag One: Side B



Bag One: Bottom of Bag



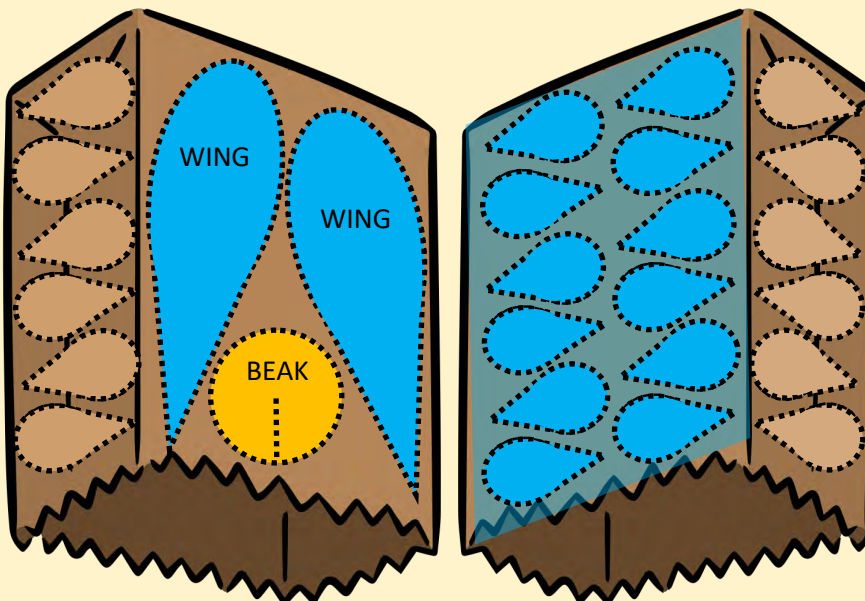
Bag one is the base for the costume. The child can color the front and back of the bag their desired color. Parents can cut arm holes and a hole for the head, unless you want to save time by doing that before the program. Lacing is optional.



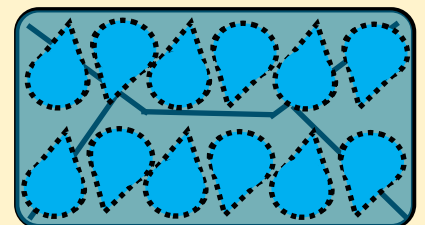
Bag two is for the additional pieces. Feathers can be optional. Before cutting, have the children color the front, back, and bottom of the bag (the beak will be a different color). Color and cut out the large wing shapes. Cut out the beak circle. If they desire, they can cut out "feather" shapes that can then be attached all over the costume. Leaving some feathers brown will give your costume depth and texture.

Bag Two: Side A

Bag Two: Side B

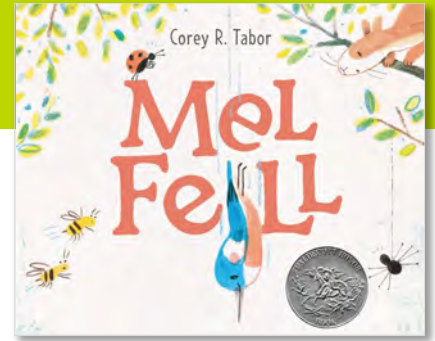


Bag Two: Bottom of Bag



Mel Fell

Written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



STEM | Homemade Birdseed

The following recipe for homemade bird food called suet can be used in any season. It attracts woodpeckers, tufted titmice, nuthatches, and chickadees. A big thanks to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for allowing us to include this activity in our manual. If you decide to do this activity in your library, be sure to let parents know you'll be using peanut butter in case they want to opt out because of allergies.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has lots of activities for kids that you can explore at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/kids/>.

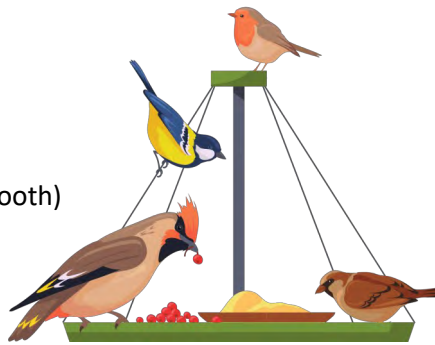
You will need:

- Flour
- Cornmeal or oatmeal
- Vegetable shortening
- Peanut butter (either crunchy or smooth)
- Mesh bag (an onion bag works well)

Directions:

1. Mix together in a bowl:

- ¼ cup vegetable shortening
- ¼ cup peanut butter (either crunchy or smooth)
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup either cornmeal or oatmeal



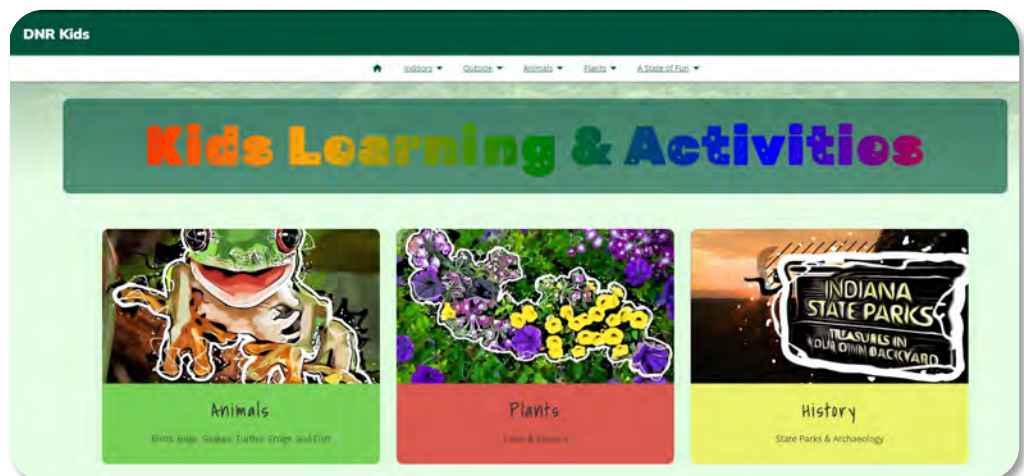
2. For more variety, add some millet, cracked corn or sunflower seeds.

3. Put the mixture in a small mesh bag and tie it either on a tree branch or around the trunk of a tree. You can also use a butter knife to spread some of the mixture on the bark of a tree. Don't apply too much to the tree bark, as it can get pretty messy. Two or 3 spoonfuls is all you need. In the summer, put the suet on the shady side of the tree so it won't melt as much.

4. If you hang the suet bag from a branch, woodpeckers may not be able to get to it. Woodpeckers prefer something solid, such as a tree limb, to hang onto when they eat. Don't be surprised if you also see chickadees and titmice eating too.

5. Remember to involve an adult when you make this recipe. Adults enjoy helping you mix up all the ingredients.

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



It's a hot day in Los Angeles and one excited child is ready to buy a tasty Mexican treat from their favorite street vendor. This lightly bilingual rhythmic romp will have you craving paletas.

TALKING | Paletas

This story, written by Latin Grammy winning musician Lucky Diaz and illustrated by Micah Player, is a colorful and engaging picture book about kindness and being part of a community. Diaz paints a vivid picture of Los Angeles and makes the reader salivate for the cool Mexican treat; the paleta. Before reading the book, ask your audience if any of them know what a paleta is? Show pictures of paletas and explain that they are a Mexican frozen treat similar to a popsicle and made from whole fruit like strawberries, mango, and melon. Other traditional flavors include cinnamon, honey, and pistachios. Unlike American popsicles, paletas are usually made with a variety of fresh ingredients instead of flavored sugar syrup. What flavors would your kiddos like to try?



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Firefly Facebook Group

Did you know there is a private Facebook group just for librarians in Indiana who work with the Firefly Award? Under "Groups" search for "Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award Round Table" and request to be added. You are free to use this group to ask questions, share ideas, and otherwise celebrate the Firefly Award!



TALKING and GROWTH MINDSET | Spanish Words

Encourage your patrons to have a growth mindset about learning new languages by practicing some of the Spanish words from the book. You yourself might be a Spanish speaker, or you might have Spanish speakers in your storytime sessions who could help lead this discussion. Read the book through once then go back to discuss some of the Spanish words.

dinero = money
bailando = dancing
querido = dear (a term of endearment)
lo siento = I'm sorry
elote = sweet corn
sandía = watermelon
fresa = strawberry
arroz con leche = rice pudding

miel = honey
cereza = cherry
oye = hey
sabor = flavor
¡Claro! Para ti, ¡el mejor! = Of course! The best for you!
¡Está perdido! = It is lost!
¿A dónde se ha ido? = Where has it gone?
Yo te prometo = I promise you

Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player

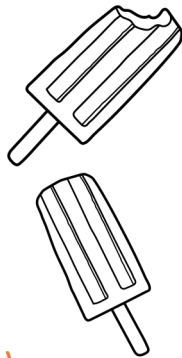


SINGING | Paletas for You and Me by Suzanne Walker

This song to the tune of “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean” uses only three chords: G, D, and C. For the third verse, make this interactive by asking the children what flavor they would like to make.

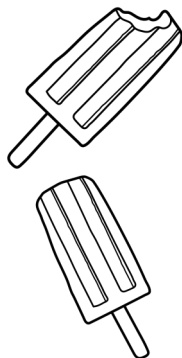
Verse One:

G
I'll make a horchata paleta.
G D
I'll make it so cinnamony.
G
I'll make a horchata paleta.
D G
Frankly, I think I'll make three.



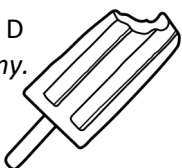
Chorus (repeat after each verse):

G C
One, two, three, yes!
D G
One for you, and you, and me!
G C
One, two, three, yes!
D G
Paletas for you and me!



Verse Two:

G
I'll make a banana paleta.
G D
I'll make it so smooth and creamy.
G
I'll make a banana paleta.
D G
Frankly, I think I'll make three.



Verse Three:

G
I'll make a _____ paleta.
G D
Because it's my favorite you see.
G
I'll make a _____ paleta.
D G
Frankly, I think I'll make three.
(Insert flavors that children suggest.)

READING | Booklists

This book covers many topics including Mexican-American culture, using money, street vendors, Los Angeles, community helpers, language, and of course, delicious paletas. Here are two book lists you can explore with your storytimers. The first list includes books written in English with a smattering of Spanish words. The second list is all about the delicious world of Mexican food.

Spanish Language

- *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros
- *Alphabet Amigos* by Angel Alvarez
- *Coquí in the City* by Nomar Perez
- *Little Roja Riding Hood* by Susan Middleton Elya
- *Mañana, Iguana* by Ann Whitford Paul
- *Mi Ciudad Sings* by Cynthia Harmony
- *My Town, Mi Pueblo* by Nicholas Solis
- *One Is a Piñata* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong
- *Pepe and the Parade* by Tracey Kyle
- *Rubia and the Three Osos* by Susan Middleton Elya

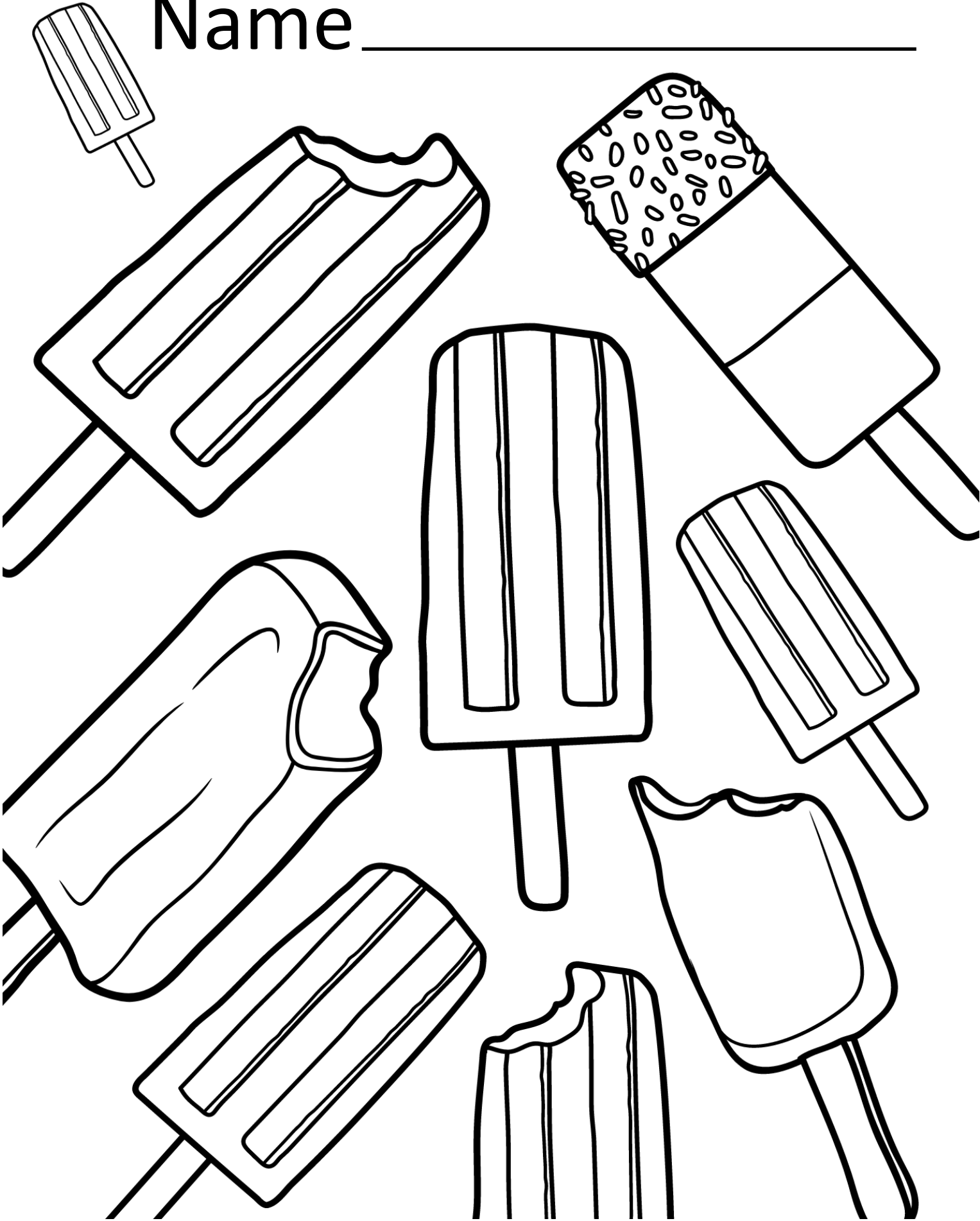
Mexican Foods

- *The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred* by Samantha R. Vamos
- *Green Is a Chile Pepper* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong
- *Guacamole* by Jorge Argueta
- *How to Fold a Taco* by Naibe Reynoso
- *May Your Life Be Deliciosa* by Michael Genhart
- *Round Is a Tortilla* by Roseanne Thong
- *A Song of Frutas* by Margarita Engle
- *What Can You Do with a Paleta?* by Carmen Tafolla

WRITING | Color Those Paletas

While color-sheets can sometimes get a bad rap because they seem like busy-work, young children reap great benefits by coloring. Coloring is essential for developing fine motor skills and provides good practice for the ever-important pencil grip. Coloring stimulates creativity and encourages self-expression. In today's fast-paced world of quick changing screens, coloring can help a child develop focus when they color for sustained periods of time. Hand out the paleta color sheet on the next page to your patrons to extend your storytime from the library to the home.

Name _____



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



WRITING | Mexican Flag Craft

Are your kiddos familiar with maps? On a map point out the United States of America, Mexico, and Canada. Mexico is our neighbor to the south, and Canada is our neighbor to the north. Paletas hail from Mexico. Celebrate their origins by doing a Mexican Flag craft with your group. There are many, many ways you could do this craft including coloring, painting, using thumbprints, or using tissue paper. Feel free to share your work on the private Indiana Firefly Award Facebook webpage.



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



BODY MOVEMENT | Parachute Time!

Children love grasping the handles of a parachute and feeling the breeze as they sweep it up and down. This picture book has a song by Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band that goes right along with it (search for “Paletero Man Lyric Video” on YouTube). Play the song as background for parachute time. Here’s a quick list of activities you can do with a parachute, including bouncing paletas made out of felt!

- Walk around one way.
- Walk around the other way.
- Sweep the parachute all the way up and all the way down (slow).
- Bounce the parachute up and down (fast).
- Instruct the children to gather on the floor under the parachute and invite the parents to help you bounce the parachute up and down over their bodies (children love this...you can do the same with babies).
- Make a few simple felt paletas and bounce them on the parachute. How long can you keep the felt paletas on the parachute?



To make felt paletas you will need:

- Felt in different colors including brown for the sticks
- Scissors
- Glue gun or sewing machine
- Popsicle sticks
- Cotton balls or scraps of felt

Step One: Cut out two paleta pieces from the same color felt using the paleta template (next page). Apply hot glue around the edge of one of the paleta shapes leaving the bottom open. Quickly press the second paleta shape on top of the first and glue together. Allow to set. Alternatively, you can layer one paleta shape on top of the second paleta shape and sew around the edge keeping the bottom open. Now, turn your paleta inside out.

Step Two: Cut out one stick piece from brown colored felt using the stick template. Cover a popsicle stick with the felt by folding the felt around the stick and hot gluing it all together. Tip: fold the bottom up first, glue, then wrap the stick and glue some more.

Step Three: Stuff your paleta with a few cotton balls or the scraps from your felt.

Step Four: Insert your covered popsicle stick into the open bottom edge of your paleta and glue or sew the bottom together. You now have a soft paleta you can safely bounce on a parachute!

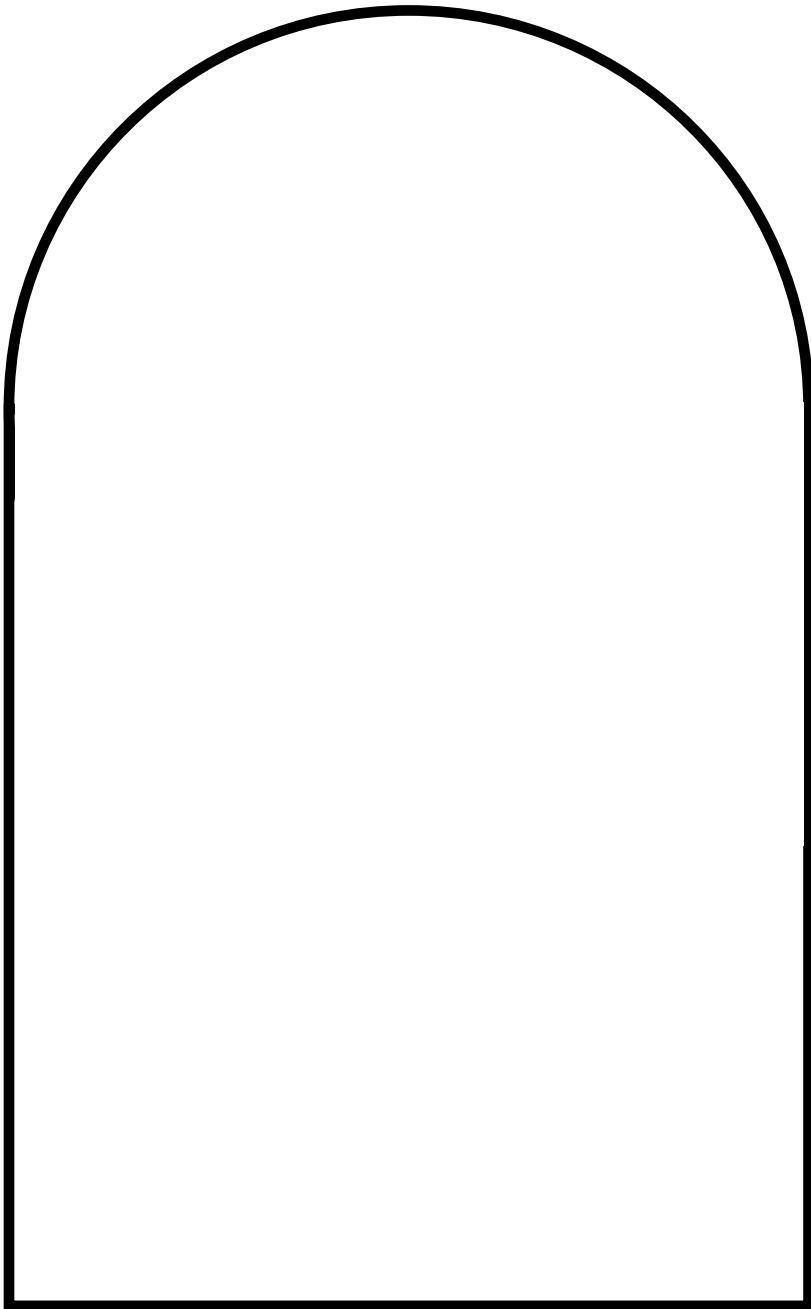


Paletero Man

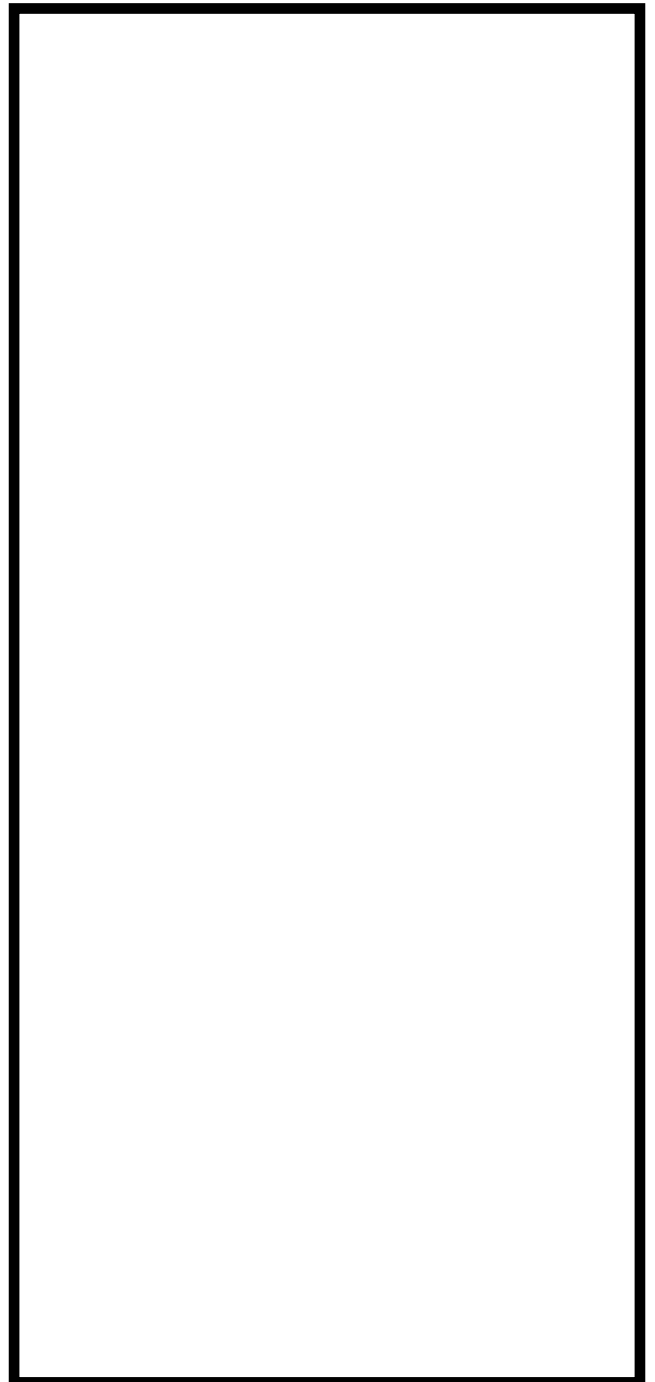
by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



Pattern for Felt Paletas



Paleta.



Stick—Wrap the popsicle stick with this piece.

Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



SNACKS AT PROGRAMS | Mexican Flag Paletas

We typically do not include snack ideas in the Firefly Manual. Why not? Very often your patrons will have a variety of dietary needs that cannot be accommodated in one snack. However, many libraries do offer snacks and food at programs with a great degree of success. If you offer a snack, consider these tips: let patrons know what the snack will be ahead of time; allow patrons to bring an alternative snack; label snacks so patrons know if they include gluten, dairy, peanuts, or other ingredients that might be problematic due to allergies; offer a variety of snacks instead of just one snack.

All that said, **paletas** would be a very fun snack to offer to your patrons, to do as a craft activity, or just print out and share this recipe. This recipe, used with permission, makes 10 paletas that are layered red, white, and green to look like the Mexican flag.

Ingredients:

For the green or kiwi layer:

- 6 kiwis peeled and cut in halves or quarters
- 1 additional kiwi peeled and cut into thin slices to decorate the bottom of the molds
- ~½ cup sugar or honey (adjust to taste)
- ½ cup water
- Juice of 1 lime

For the red or strawberry layer:

- 1 lb of strawberries cut into halves
- ¼ to ½ cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 cup water

For the white or lime/lemon layer:

- Juice of 8-10 limes or lemons (about 1 cup)
- 2 cups of water
- ½ cup sugar (adjust to taste)

Other items you will need:

- Popsicle molds or 5 oz paper or plastic cups (you will need 10)
- Popsicle sticks



Instructions:

You will need to prepare each color or flavor separately and wait until each one is almost frozen before adding the next layer. I recommend blending each fruit mix or juice right before you freeze that layer to make sure the flavor is as fresh as possible. I also use a thin baking sheet (that will fit in my freezer) to place the molds or cups on. It makes it easier to move them in and out of the freezer when adding each additional layer.

For the green paleta or kiwi popsicle layer:

In a blender, blend the kiwi pieces (except the thin slices) with the sugar or honey, lime juice and water. Blend until smooth, taste and adjust the sweetness based on your preference. Put a thin slice of kiwi on the bottom of each mold or cup (if using the round molds) or on the sides (if using the long rectangle molds) and pour the kiwi puree into each mold until it's about 1/3 full. If you do not mind the popsicle sticks having a slight tilt, then you can add them at this time. Otherwise, put the molds in the freezer and once the kiwi layer begins to solidify, you can place the popsicle sticks in the center of each cup or mold.

For the white paleta or lime/lemon popsicle layer:

As soon as the first layer is almost frozen, prepare the second (lime/lemon) layer. Combine the lime or lemon juice, water and sugar in a blender and mix well. Another option is to make a simple syrup with the sugar and the water ahead of time and then stir in the freshly squeezed juice. Add the juice layer to the popsicle molds until the mold is 2/3 full. Return the popsicles molds to the freezer until this layer is almost frozen.

For the red paleta or strawberry popsicle layer:

In a blender, blend the strawberries with the sugar, lime juice, and water until you have a smooth puree. Pour the puree into the molds and fill them until almost full. Return the popsicles to the freezer and let them freeze completely, about 4 hours (more or less depending on your freezer). To remove the popsicles from the molds, run the mold under water for a few seconds and gently twist the popsicle stick while pulling the popsicle out of the mold. If using paper cups, simply peel the cups off.



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



STEM | Counting Activity – Ring! Ring! Ring!

Bring in a **bicycle bell** to add some pizzaz to this counting activity. You will also need a **jumbo six-sided die** (you can easily make one out of a square tissue box) and six paletas prepped for your flannel board (page 50).

For the activity, ring the bell and say, “Ring! Ring! Ring! Can you hear the Paletero Man coming? Paletas for one! Paletas for all! How many paletas will we get?”

Select a child to roll the die. Hold up the die so everyone can tell you how many paletas to put on the board. You can either count the pips on the die or have the children tell you how many dots are on the die without counting (see the information on subitization in the *Room for Everyone* section under “Milk Math”). Allow the child to place the paletas on the board and then count them together. Consider counting them in English and in Spanish.



STEM and TALKING | Money, What?

Most children ages 0-5 are still too young to learn about pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars, but even very little children are starting to understand what money is and how it works, especially when they see their caregivers pay for items at stores, meals at restaurants, or even purchase items online. Start this activity by discussing money. Look through the book and notice when the dinero falls out of the child’s pocket (you can see it on almost every spread).

Prep six flannel board items and point to each one of them (**credit card, coins, dollar, mango, teddy bear, and paleta**). Which items constitute money? Which ones are not money? How do people get money? What is it for?

With slightly older children, you can do the following activity with pretend money. Give each child a paper cut-out of either a bill, coins, or a credit card and tell them that even though their money looks different, they each have one dollar to spend. Tell them that the items on the board (mango, teddy bear, and paleta) each cost one dollar. (You might want to have multiple copies in your “store,” so you have plenty for the children to choose from). Allow the children to choose an item from the store and pay you with the dollar. You could even include a picture of a piggy bank and allow the child to put their money in the bank to save for another day. You can choose to allow the child to keep their store item or to return it at the end of the activity. If you choose to collect the items, make sure the children know at the beginning of the activity that this is just for pretend. Find the rest of the items on page 49.



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



FINGER PLAY | Five Cold Paletas by Suzanne Walker

For this finger play written especially for our program guide, prepare five paletas (next page) for your flannel board and have the children count down as you remove them one at a time.

*Five cold paletas in the paleta cart.
Some are sweet and some are tart.
A child came by with dinero to pay,
Now only four paletas are in the cart today.*

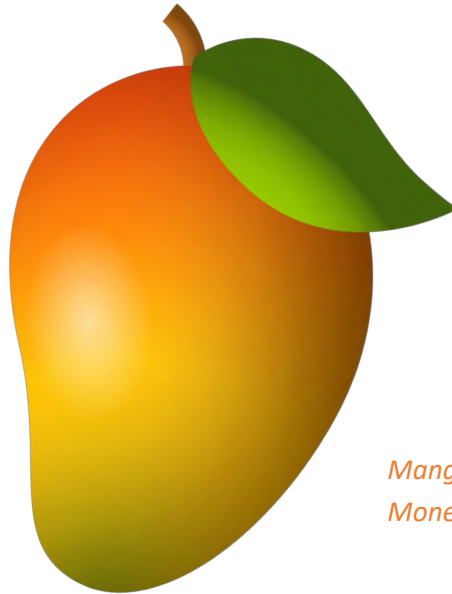
*Four cold paletas in the paleta cart.
Some are sweet and some are tart.
A child came by with dinero to pay,
Now only three paletas are in the cart today.*

*Three cold paletas in the paleta cart.
Some are sweet and some are tart.
A child came by with dinero to pay,
now only two paletas are in the cart today.*

*Two cold paletas in the paleta cart.
Some are sweet and some are tart.
A child came by with dinero to pay,
Now only one paleta is in the cart today.*

*One cold paleta in the paleta cart.
Maybe it's sweet and maybe it's tart.
A child came by with dinero to pay,
now zero paletas are in the cart today.*

*Zero cold paletas in the paleta cart.
none are sweet and none are tart.
Paletero José sold them all today,
So, Paletero José rolled his cart away.*



Mango and Teddy Bear for Money, What? activity.



SINGING | Rhythm Sticks

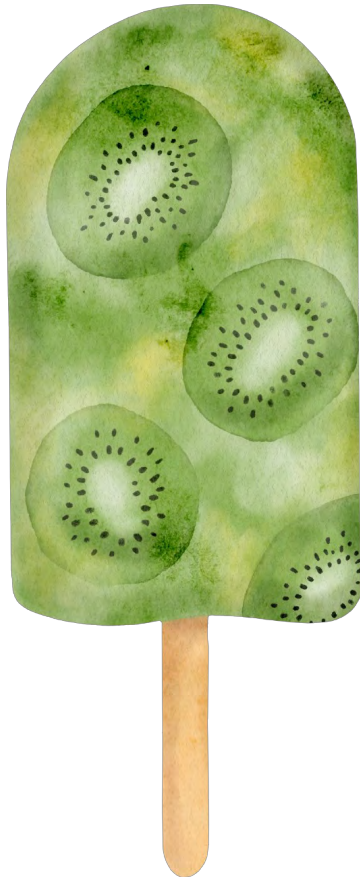
Pass out rhythm sticks, sandpaper blocks, shaker eggs or other rhythm instruments and play one of these songs that pairs perfectly with *Paletero Man*.

- “I Can Count In Spanish” from the Multiply album by The Wise Channel
- “It Sure Is Hot” from the Fiesta Songs album by Sesame Street
- “Let’s Go to the Beach” from the Mil colores album by Nathalia
- “Made in LA” from the Made in LA album by Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band
- “Maria Isabel” from the Anyone Can Sing album by Indiana music group Yurtfolk
- “Vacation” from the Oh, Lucky Day! album by Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band



Paletero Man

by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



*Paletas for Five Cold
Paletas finger play, Ring!
Ring! Ring! activity, and
Money, What? activity.*

Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



The daladala rumbles down a hot Zanzibar street, and EVERYONE wants to hop aboard to head to the beach. Will they all fit? Bask in the African joy reflected on each page of this exuberant offering.

TALKING and GROWTH MINDSET | Swahili Words

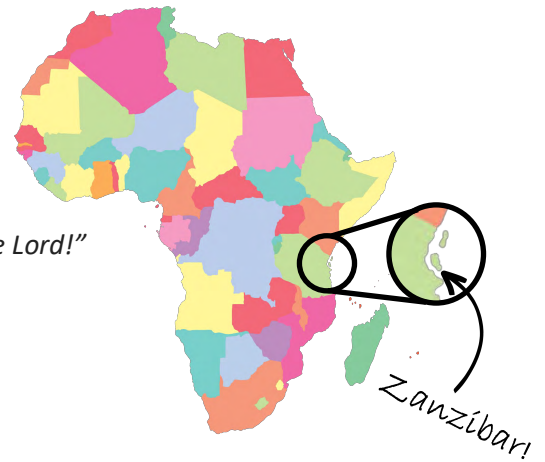
Learning new words can be challenging but also fun. If you are unfamiliar with some of the words in this book, model growth mindset by practicing with your audience. Audio recordings of some of the Swahili words were created by Naaz Khan, the author of the book, specifically for our program guide and are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr4xue34>. The author also provided us with this pronunciation guide:

- Zuleikha – ZUU-lay-kha / *The name of a street.*
- Baghala BUH-ghuh-la / *A type of boat.*
- Konda – KONE-da / *The conductor on a daladala.*
- Kitenge – Kit-ENG-ay / *A type of cloth.*
- Nungwi – NŃNG-gwee / *The name of a beach.*

Alhamdulillah – uhl- ĥUM-dŃ-lill-la / *An Arabic phrase meaning "Praise the Lord!"*

Show the children a globe and point to Indiana. Spin it around and point to Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar. Explain that many of people who live in Zanzibar speak Swahili, a language different than English. Ask your participants if any of them speak another language other than English. There are over 7,000 languages spoken in the world! That means there thousands of different words for "bus," including, "daladala," also depicted as "dala dala, or "dala-dala."



READING | Mass Transit and Tanzania

Room for Everyone is a joyous celebration of both transit and the culture of Zanzibar. Learn more about both topics by exploring these titles:

Tanzania, Zanzibar, and East Africa

- Africa: Amazing Africa* by Atinuke
- In a Cloud of Dust* by Alma Fullerton
- Is It Far to Zanzibar?* by Nikki Grimes
- Lala Salama* by Patricia MacLachlan
- Wangari's Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter
- We All Went On Safari* by Laurie Krebs



Mass Transit

- The Bus Is for Us* by Michael Rosen
- City Railways Go Above and Below* by Patrick T. McBriarty
- Clackety Track* by Indiana Author Skila Brown
- I Am the Subway* by Hyo-eun Kim
- My Bus* by Byron Barton
- Subway Ride* by Indiana Author Heather Lynn Miller
- The Wheels on the Bus* by Melanie Williamson

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Reimagining School Readiness

In the *Room for Everyone* section (and other places in this program guide), you will encounter some findings from the Reimagining School Readiness trainings offered by the Bay Area Discovery Museum. Indiana participated in this national program in 2022. The Indiana trainings are available on the Archived Webinar webpage of the Continuing Education Toolkit. You can find them here: <https://continuinged.isl.in.gov/find-training/archived-trainings/> All library workers that interact with children can benefit from viewing these trainings. If you watch both trainings, you can earn 3 LEUs.



Talk & Play



Body & Brain



Science & Math

Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



WRITING | The Batik Process

Batik is an ancient form of decorating textiles that uses a wax resistance process. Traditionally, hot wax is applied to a white cloth. Anywhere that the wax has been applied, the cloth stays white. The cloth is then dyed. When the wax is removed, the designs are revealed. Many kitenge (batik cloth) are depicted in this book. Find more images of kitenge online to share with your patrons. Decorate fabric with your storytime group using the kid-friendly (but intense) method described below, or try the much easier wax resistant watercolor painting project on page 53.

Batik for Littles - Admittedly, this is a project that takes multiple sessions; however, the end result is worth it. Also, each step is easy for a toddler or preschooler to do with help from a caregiver. The hardest part is waiting for your results!

You will need:

- White fabric (cotton bandanas, cotton t-shirts, cloth cotton napkins, or small canvas bags will all work)
- Elmer's Blue Gel Glue (do not use white glue)
- Acrylic paint
- Foam paint brushes
- Cardboard
- Smocks for the children (old t-shirts are great for this)
- Scrub brush or nail brush



Session One:

Draw a design onto the fabric with the glue. The children should be allowed to try to do this by themselves, but they may need caregiver help if the glue bottles are hard to squeeze. This is a great activity for working hand muscles, essential for learning how to write. Big, looping designs work well. Think flowers, swirls, loops, dots, squiggles, and circles. If you are decorating t-shirts or canvas bags, slip a piece of cardboard inside the shirt or bag to prevent the glue from seeping to the lower layers of the fabric. Allow to dry, at least overnight.

Session Two:

Paint over the entire project using acrylic paint. You might wish to water down your acrylic paint to make it easier for small children to use. Children do not have to worry about painting within the lines. They just need to cover their whole painted design with acrylic paint. Allow to dry, at least overnight.

Homework:

Seek out a volunteer to do this part or do it yourself. You may have to do this part at home. This is the most time-consuming part of this project. Soak the projects in hot water for at least an hour. This softens the glue but should not affect the acrylic paint. Using a scrub brush or nail brush, scrub the glue off the fabric. Set the glue aside as you work (it will peel away in strips) so it doesn't end up going down your drain. Once all the glue has been removed, allow the projects to dry again. Supposedly you can do the glue wash-off in the washing machine, but do this at your own risk. You can dry these in the dryer. Ironing is fine too.

Session Three:

Return all pieces to the children. Did any of the designs end up looking like the designs in the book?

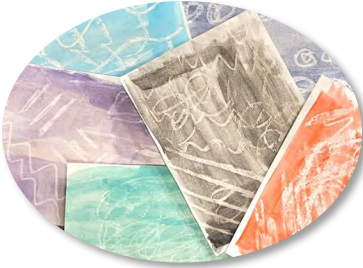
Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



WRITING | Wax Resistance Watercolors

This project uses a similar technique to batik but can be done in one day.



You will need:

- Paper
- White crayons
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes (foam or bristles)
- Smocks for the children (optional)



Step One:

Encourage the children to make lots of designs on their papers using white crayons. They should try to press hard. They will not be able to see their designs very well but let them know that they will be able to see their designs later. Big, looping designs work well. Think flowers, swirls, loops, dots, squiggles, and circles. Encourage them to move their hands in large swoops. Keep their hands moving and try to cover the whole paper with designs.

Step Two:

Using watercolors, paint over your entire design. For this step, children should be less concerned with design and more focused on just covering their paper with paint. Children will be excited to see their crayon designs emerge from the under the watercolors. Children can use different colors, but single colors also look wonderful using this technique. Allow to dry.

Community Project:

If you'd like to display the wax-resistant artwork in a pattern, consider having half your participants paint over their crayon using one color and the other half paint over their crayon using a different color. Display the finished pieces in a checkerboard pattern on a bulletin board or wall.



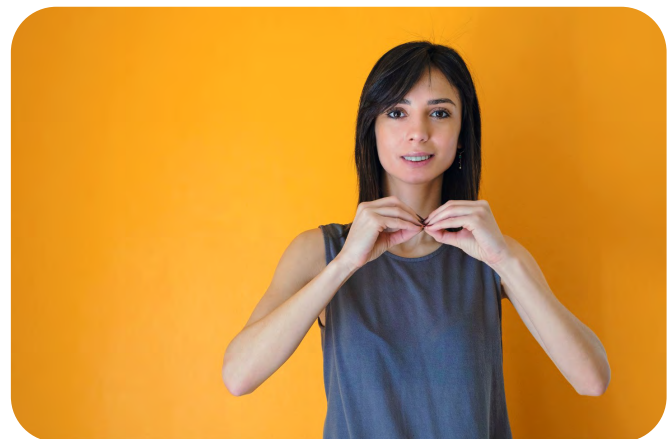
SINGING | The More We Get Together

The message in this book is clear. The more people (and goats, and chickens, and coconuts) the better! Try pairing this simple song with American Sign Language. When children learn that a motion represents a word, they are one step closer to learning that letters represent sounds. There are many videos available on YouTube for learning the sign language to "The More We Get Together." This is also a perfect pairing with this summer's Collaborative Summer Library Program theme of *All Together Now* (logo used with permission).

*The more we get together, together, together,
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.*

*For your friends are my friends,
And my friends are your friends.*

*The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.*



Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



READING | Magnet / Flannel Board

This is one of the longer books ever chosen for the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Practice reading the story a few times before sharing it in storytime. Get familiar with the two characters, Musa, the young boy in the red shirt, and his sister Dada, the girl wearing the pink scarf decorated with salmon-colored circles. Though some of the words might be unfamiliar to your group, they will be able to pick up on the meaning through context clues. Focus on the counting and the repeated phrases: "It's hotter than peppers out there in the sun! Come in, there's room for everyone!" Emphasize the rhymes and the rhythm.

To keep track of all the riders, make a daladala magnet board by cutting out each grouping on the following pages. Attach a magnet or a piece of Velcro to the back and keep adding them to your daladala as you read the book. They should fit either in or on the two-page daladala! A photo on the next page is included for reference.

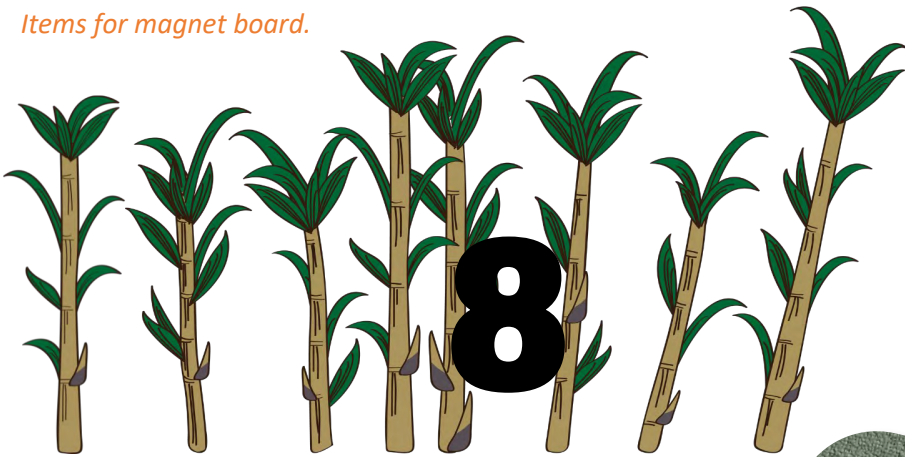


Items for magnet board.

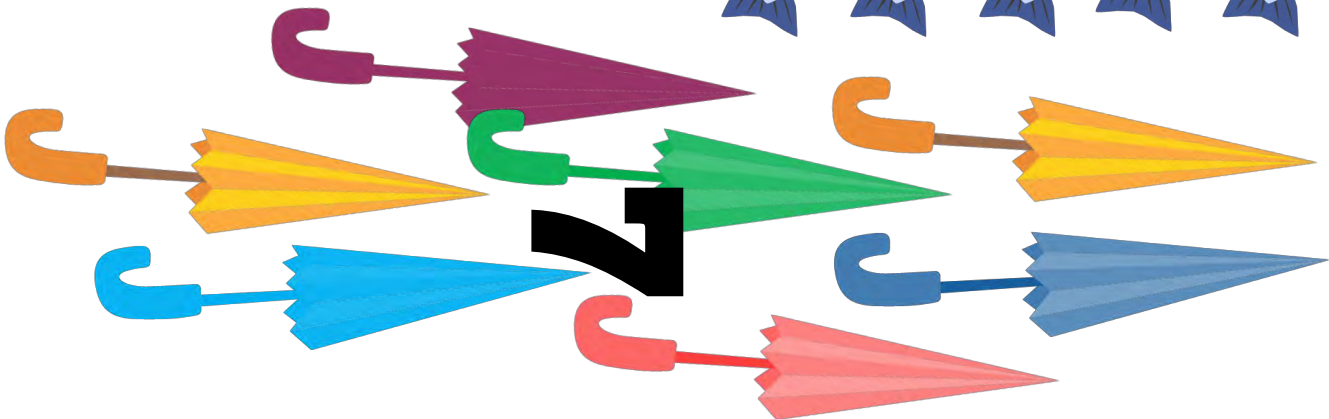
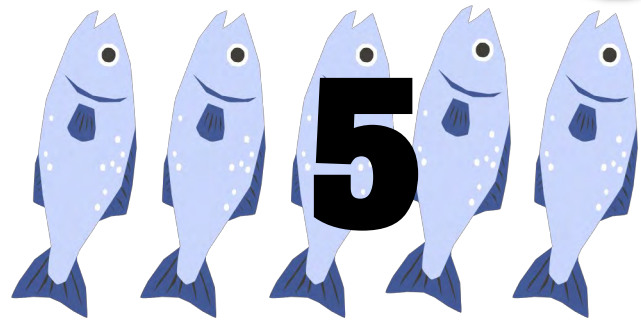
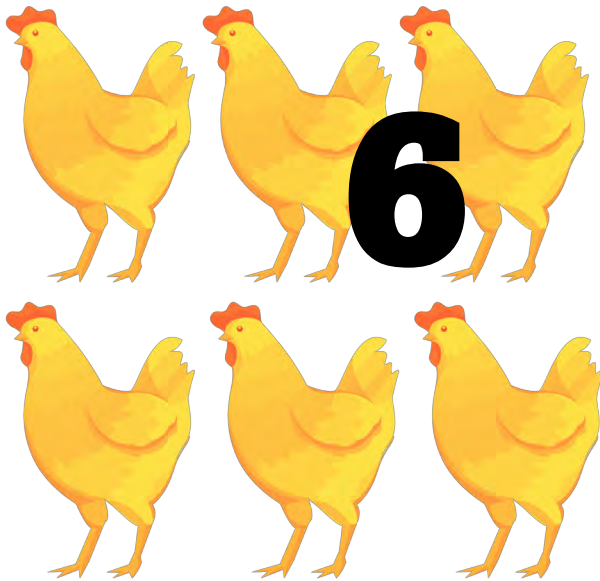
Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López

Items for magnet board.



Here's one way for the items to fit.
Maybe you can find another one!



Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



SINGING | The Daladala Wheels

Your storytimers will pick up this familiar tune in no time at all. Use the flannel board from the previous pages to keep track of who is going to the beach! Consider handing out rhythm sticks or egg shakers so your participants can help create the song. Singing with young children helps them to hear the individual sounds in words. That can help them later when they are learning to read.

C
The dala-dala wheels go round and round.

G C
Round and round. Round and round.

C
The dala-dala wheels go round and round.

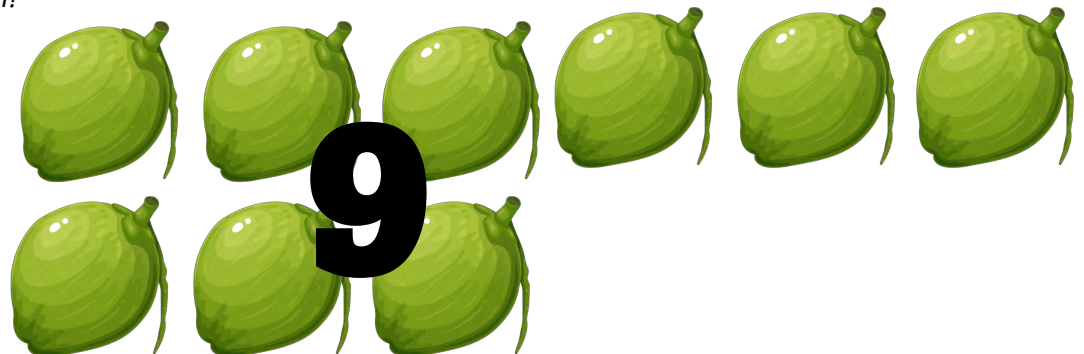
G C
We're going to the beach!

*On that dala-dala is one old bike.
One old bike. One old bike.
On that dala-dala is one old bike.
We're going to the beach!*

*On that dala-dala are two pink goats.
Two pink goats. Two pink goats.
On that dala-dala are two pink goats.
We're going to the beach!*

*...are three baskets.
...are four milk pails.
...are five gray fish.
...are six stinky chickens.
...are seven umbrellas.
...are eight sugarcanes.
...are nine coconuts.*

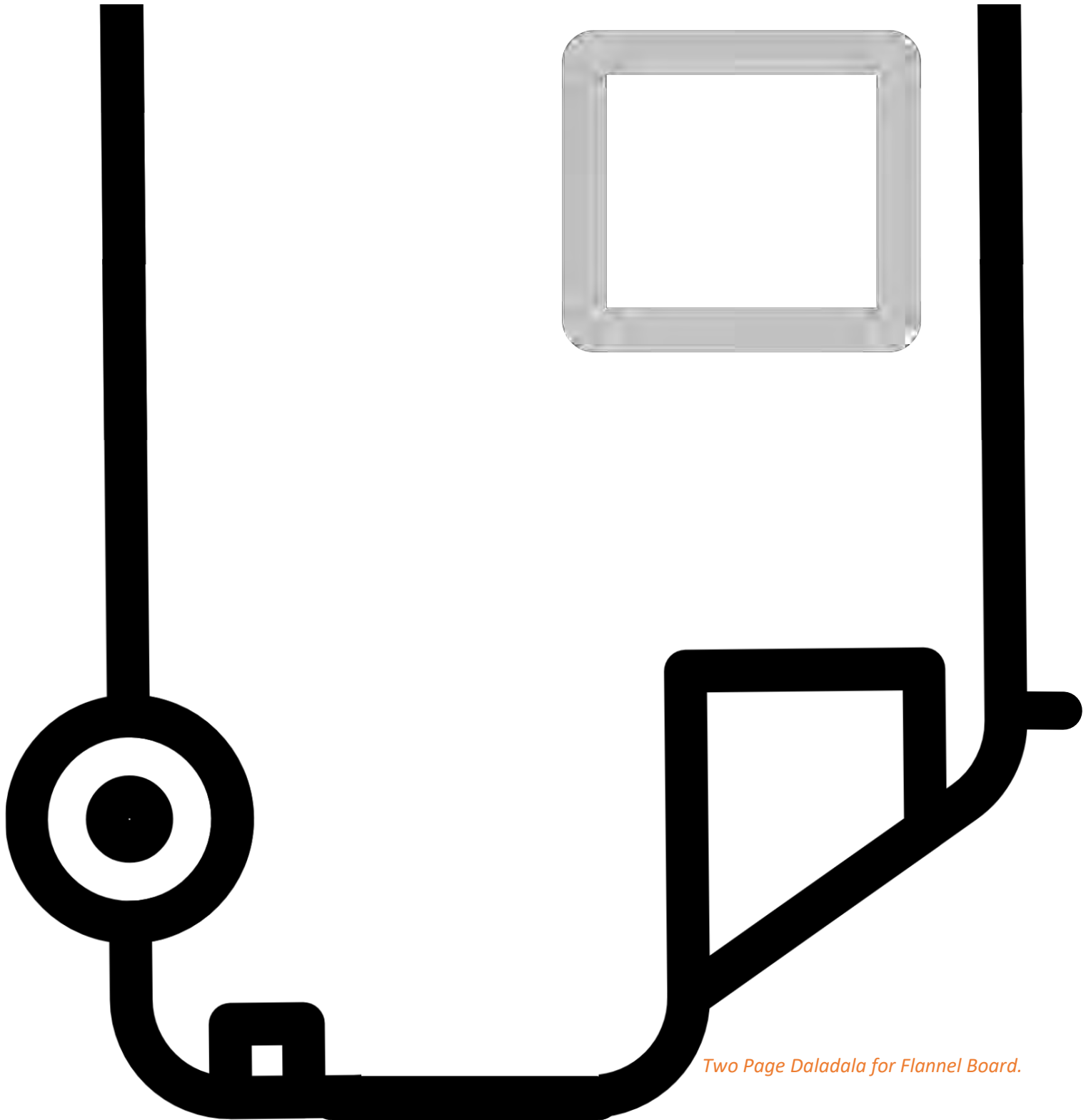
*On that dala-dala are ten divers.
Ten divers. Ten divers.
On that dala-dala are ten divers.
And we're finally at the beach!*



Items for magnet board.

Room for Everyone

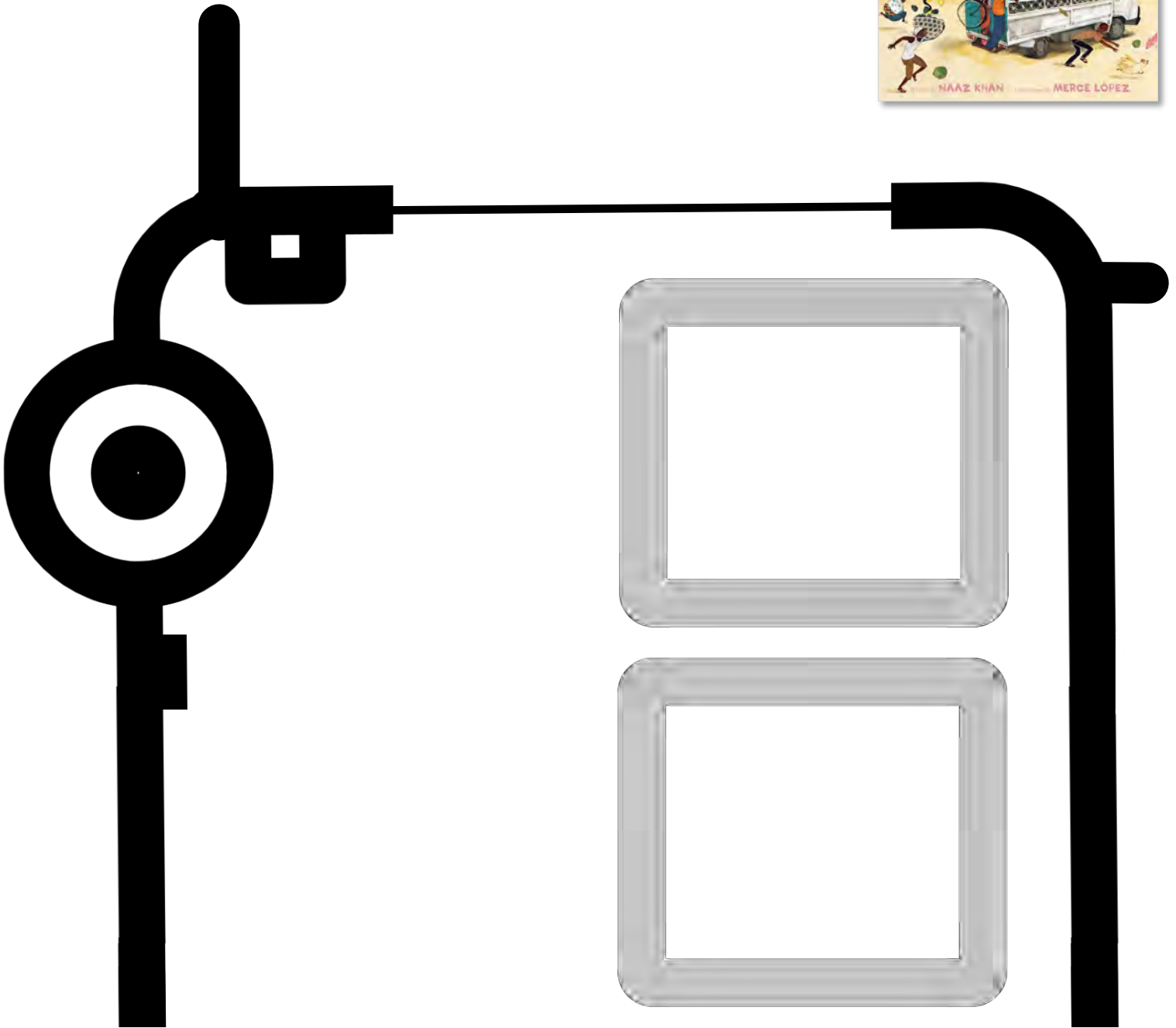
by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



Two Page Daladala for Flannel Board.

Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



Two Page Daladala for Flannel Board.

Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



TALKING and PLAYING | Mass Transit Songs - Choo! Choo!

One theme present in this book is the concept of mass transit. Children all over the world use mass transit to get around every day, but people in your storytime may not. Talk about different ways to get from here to there. Some people use the bus. Some people take a train. Some people take a tram, and some people ride on a monorail.

Form your patrons into a line and play one of these songs about mass transit. Move around the storytime room in a line grooving and dancing to the music. For adventurous groups, snake them through the whole library. Use a Bluetooth speaker to make this even easier.

“Bus Song” by Blippi

“Bus Stop” by The Hollies

“Get on the Bus” by The Doodlebops

“Let’s Take the Subway” by Tracy Bonham

“The Loco-Motion” by Little Eva

“Transportation Song” by Blippi

“Take the A Train” by Duke Ellington



PLAYING | Zoom Around the Island

We all need to move our bodies more. Encourage body movement with this activity that pairs fine motor skills with mapping skills and body movement.

You will need:

- A large piece of paper from a paper roll, approximately 2 feet by 6 feet, depending on the number of participants and size of room
- Markers
- Construction paper (optional)
- Toy buses or toy cars (buses are more aligned to the theme of *Room for Everyone*, but cars would work fine).
- Blocks or Duplos

Ahead of time, sketch a long skinny island with one road going around it and a few roads going across it. Be sure to use bold, black lines, especially for the roads. If you like, you can color the water around the island blue, the beach yellow, and the middle (city part) green. Alternatively, you could use construction paper to really make the colors on your island pop.

For the activity, roll out your island and instruct the children to build a city in the middle of the island, only in the green part. After the city is built, give the children each a toy bus or car so they can zoom all over the island on their hands and knees. This activity is an example of guided play, a type of play that combines structure and freedom in one activity. Guided play has been correlated to a range of positive educational outcomes. With older children you could ask them to show you a road to the beach from a certain spot on your island.



Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López

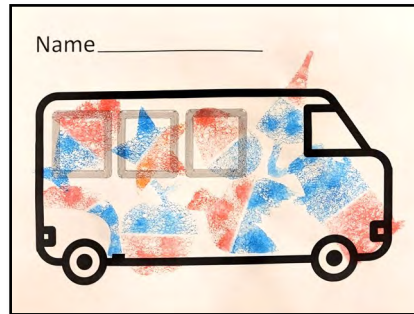


WRITING | Fill Up the Bus!

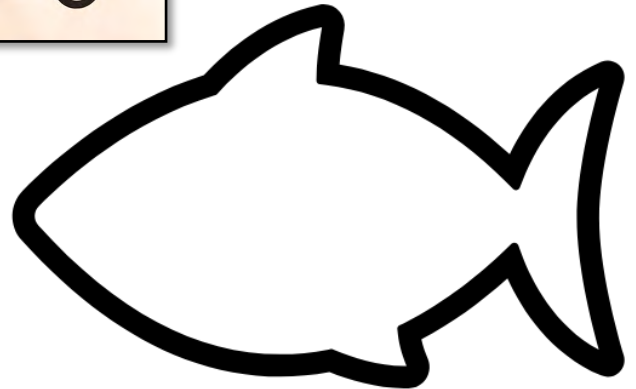
If you have the right supplies, this activity is easy and fun for small children to do with minimal help from a parent or caregiver. Children will be working on fine-motor skills in this activity.

You will need:

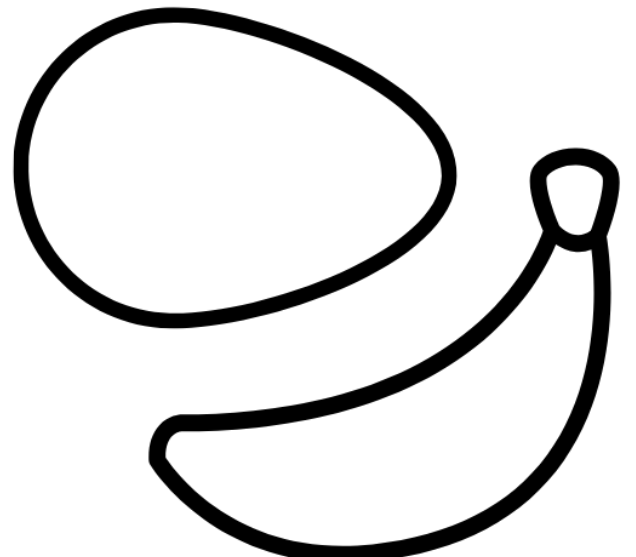
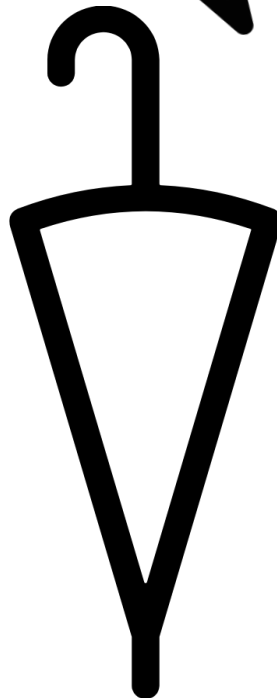
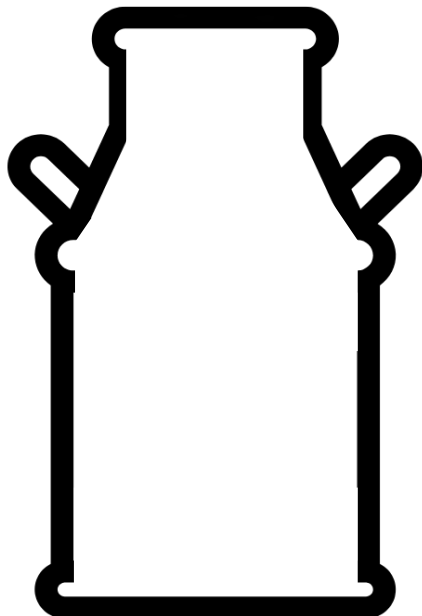
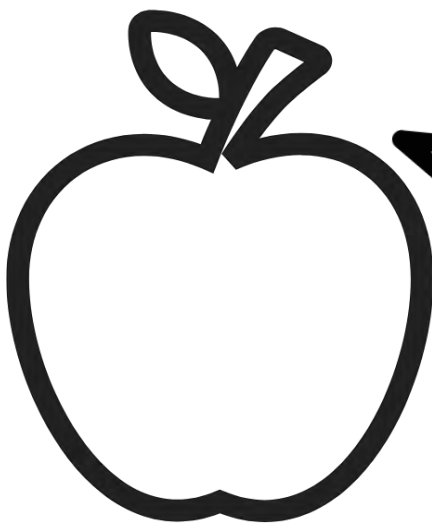
- Paper
- Large Washable Stamp Pads
- Stamps of simple items from the book



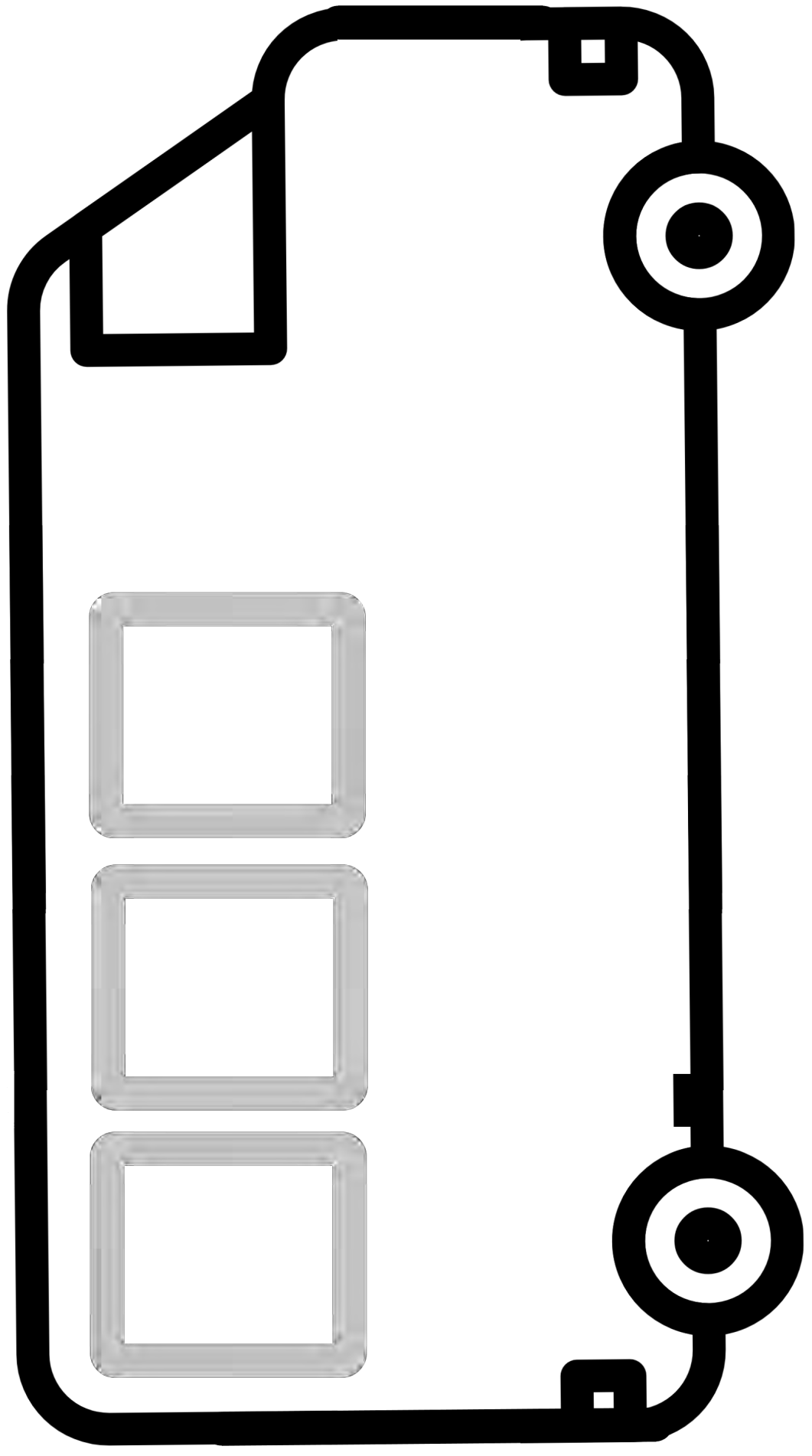
Give each child a copy of the bus on the next page. Allow them to stamp designs all over the bus until they are all full up! To make your own simple stamps, draw designs onto compressed sponges and cut them out. Eraser pencils are a simple way to stamp dots.



Outlines for stamps.



Name _____



Room for Everyone

by Naaz Khan, illustrated by Mercè López



STEM | Milk Math!

Studies show that developing strong math skills at an early age can help with reading proficiency later in life. This is a great book for talking about more and less, two concepts that are critical for math skills. Turn these milk cans into magnets or flannel pieces and use them to lead a quick activity about math.

Place three milk cans on your board and ask the children how many they see. Wait to see if they can answer before you count them together. This skill is called subitization. Subitization is the ability to see small quantities and know what the number is without counting.

Another math skill that is essential for children to develop is called ordinality. Ordinality is the concept that words for numbers represent a certain quantity and that quantity is fixed. An example of this is knowing that four is always going to be more than three. Four is always going to be less than five. Continue playing with the milk cans on your board. Depending on the age of your children, they may be able to answer the following prompts:

- If I put two milk cans on this end of the board and two milk cans on the other end of the board, how many milk cans do I have on the whole board? (Addition – this is a visual representation that two plus two equals four.)
- If I have six milk cans on the board and I take away three milk cans, how many do I have left? (Subtraction – this is a visual representation that six minus three equals three.)
- Put five milk cans on one end of the board in a group and one milk can on the other end of the board by itself. Which end of the board has more milk cans? Which end of the board has less? (Ordinality – this is a visual representation of more and less.)
- Take all the milk cans off the board – How many milk cans do I have now? (Zero – discuss the concept that Zero stands for nothing.)

Encourage the children to use their fingers when counting. This gives them a concrete idea of numbers and can lead to future math success. For more information about math skills and early literacy, read the *Reimagining School Readiness* position paper available from the Bay Area Discovery Museum. The Indiana State Library recorded trainings about these concepts in September of 2022. They can be found on the Indiana State Library's Archived Webinar webpage.



Voting Ideas

Collect votes from your library however you want. Here are some options.

In the Library: Vote Early - There is no limit to when you can start voting. As soon as the ballot is announced, feel free to open up voting at your library. Votes must be turned in by 11:59 pm on July 31, 2023. Turning in votes is simple. Just email your tallies to the Indiana Center for the Book at icb@library.in.gov.

In the Library: Voting Board - On a large bulletin board make a column for each book. Allow patrons to record their vote with a sticker or a stamp. Hand out stickers at your desk, or use a stamp.

In the Library: Non-circulating books - Keep one copy of each book at your library at all times so they are always available for patrons to read. Create signage near these books to encourage voting.



During Storytime: Mark the Ballot - Print out enough ballots for each child. Pass them out to their caregivers along with a crayon. Have the children and the caregivers interact to determine which book was the child's favorite. Remember, very small children will not be able to point to their favorite. Encourage parents to vote for the book that their child most positively responds or reacts to.

During Storytime: Use a Manipulative - Give every child one item to represent their one vote. This could be a cut-out circle, an image of a firefly, a beanbag, or whatever you have. Place the books in a row on a low table or on the floor. Put a basket in front of each book. Have the children put their item in the basket that corresponds to their favorite book. Pack these up quickly, and tally the votes later.

During Storytime: Stand By Your Book - Arrange the books with one in each corner of your storytime space and one in the middle. Have the children stand by the book that is their favorite.



Virtually - During an online storytime, have the patrons vote in the chat box. Another way to record votes is to have them raise their hands with their cameras on. Remember, you should only record votes by children, not grown-ups.

Virtually - Direct your patrons to the online voting form on the Indiana State Library's Firefly webpage.



Internal Marketing



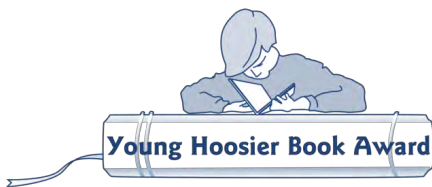
Tell Your Staff - Request a few minutes at your next staff meeting to tell your colleagues about the Firefly program. Brainstorm ideas for how they can support the program. You might not realize it, but most of your staff have connections to young children through their families, neighbors, or organizations they belong to.

Displays - Group your books, ballots, and a voting box together in an attractive display. Consider putting your display right at the front of the library so people will notice when they walk in. A display in the youth area is also great. Try keeping your display low to the ground so toddlers can see it.

Take Five / Keep Five - If possible, purchase two copies of each book. For the last month of voting, keep one copy of each book at the library as non-circulating so that multiple patrons can read and vote on the books.

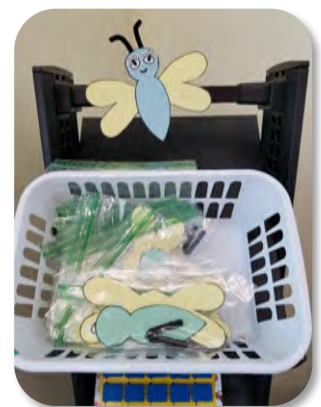
Firefly Storytimes - Take the plunge and do all five books in one storytime. Market this as a special program. Mix things up, and do this unique storytime in the evening so more families can attend. Repeat as necessary.

Leverage Your Regulars - Parents talk. Explain the program to your regular storytime attendees and ask them to share your online posts, or tell their friends about the program. Make sure they know that this is a statewide program and that their child's vote counts.



Promote the Young Hoosier and Rosie Awards - Get the whole youth department involved (of course, that might just be you!) and celebrate all the Indiana Book Awards. Both the **Young Hoosier Book Awards** and the **Eliot Rosewater Book Awards** are voted on solely by Indiana youth. That's something to celebrate!

Take Home Craft - Increase the buzz around your program by including a take-home craft near the ballots. A simple firefly is easy to put together and fun for your patrons to assemble and play with at home. Include a mini-flyer with the craft explaining the program.



Take Home Craft - Hanover Branch, Jefferson County PL

External Marketing

No matter how cute your display is, it will only reach the people who are already in your library.

Get out of your building with one of these ideas submitted by the Firefly Committee.



Focus on Voting - This is a great opportunity to teach little ones about how voting works. Every vote counts in the Firefly Award! Play up the voting aspect of the award by passing out “I Voted” stickers. You can make stickers by purchasing circle shaped labels and printing the logo. Encourage children to wear them around your community.

Friendly Wager - Reach out to a neighboring library or county and have a friendly competition to see which library can bring in the most votes. You can include a friendly wager like chocolates or popcorn from a local business. You could even create a trophy that the winning library keeps for a year. To make it fair, make sure your communities serve similar sized populations.

Volunteers with Clout - Reach out to a local volunteer organization like Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, or United Way. They are always looking for people to do short presentations at their meetings. Tell them about the Firefly, and brainstorm some ideas about how they can get involved. Many times these folks are super connected in your community and might be able to leverage contacts to get you funding, volunteers, and more. They may even have small grandchildren, neighbors, or family.



Circulate Kits to Day Cares - Make Firefly kits to circulate to daycares. Include the books, copies of the ballots, a voting box, and laminated information about the award. Allow each organization to have the kit for 2-3 weeks. If you can, hand-deliver these kits to make the barrier to participate low.

Traditional Marketing - Make sure that your communication or marketing people know about the Firefly Award. Send them a picture of your display to include in the general library newsletter.



Online Sharing - Post frequently on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok or your social media platform of choice. Share tallies as they come in. Post pictures of your displays and the covers of the books. Share to local parenting Facebook groups or homeschool groups.

Research Your Community - Having trouble locating child care centers in your area? Visit Child Care Answers at www.childcareanswers.org to build a list of providers in your area.



Turn Outward - Your community is full of organizations who provide services to children. Research the First Steps offices in your community. They are always looking for good local resources to hand out. Find your local office here: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/firststeps/first-steps-offices/>.

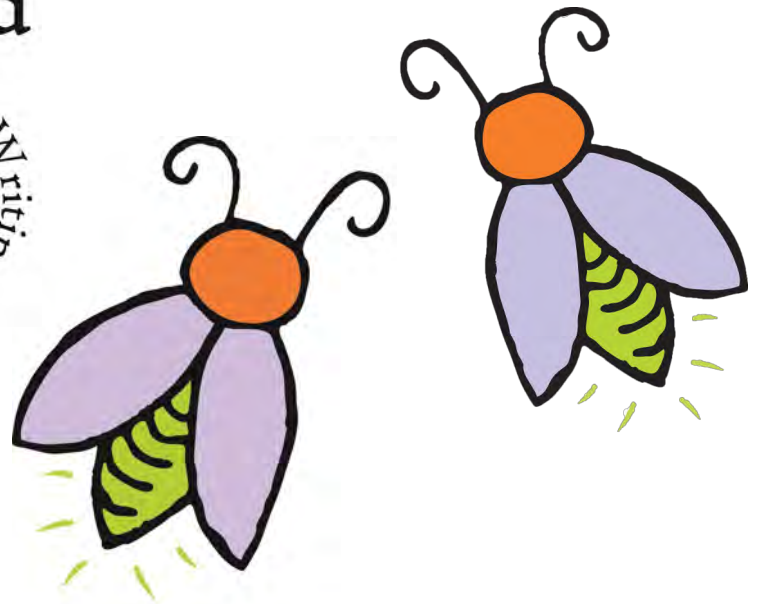


National Library Week - National Library Week is April 23-29, 2023. Consider using the celebration to promote your Firefly programs.

Publicity Resources

You have permission to use the Firefly logos on your website, in your newsletters, and on social media to promote and support the award, the voting, and any Firefly storytimes you might have. For your convenience, some of our logos are below.

Feel free to write to the Indiana Center for the Book if you need a higher resolution image: icb@library.in.gov.



Font: The Firefly font that is featured in our logo is one that is standard on most computers. It can be found by searching for **High Tower Text**. Feel free to use it when promoting the award in print or on your website.

Colors: There are four colors that make up the Firefly Logo. Our colors and their RGB coordinates are listed here. The last color is just the standard black.

Lime green:

R: 180

Orange:

R: 244

Lavender

R: 198