

10 - Maths in action
11 - Having fun with maths

Contents

Talk about maths	2
Maths every day	3
Help your child with maths	4-5
Spotlight on maths	6
Maths at home	7
More play activities using maths	8
Learning from games	9
Card games	10
Board games	11
Template for board game	12
Spinner	13
Jigsaw puzzles	14
Playing games	15
Help Mrs. Mouse find her baby mice	16



Talk about maths

You can teach your child many words about maths. Talk about:



- Encourage your child to make contrasts and comparisons.
- Talk about maths words in stories.
- Point out maths words on signs and labels.
- Help your child to learn the maths words he will need to use in school.



Maths every day

We use maths in all kinds of activities.

Think of some of the things you and your child do every day.
Which activities use maths?

Think about play activities.
What maths skills do you use in play?

Think about rhymes, songs and stories.
How do these activities use maths?

Think about a walk about town.
What examples of maths might you see?

Do you:

- use numbers?
- put things in order?
- sort items?
- put things in different categories?
- check weights?
- use direction?
- count things?
- compare objects?
- match things?
- use measurement?
- figure time?
- consider shapes?

These are all maths activities.

Help your child with maths

Just as children learn a lot about reading and writing before they go to school, they also learn a lot about maths. By seeing their parents use numbers and by hearing them talk about numbers, children quickly learn that numbers have meaning and purpose.

Here are some suggestions for helping your child with maths:

Use numbers

He will need lots of practise with counting before he really develops a sense of numbers.

- Point out the numbers that are all around him: clocks, calendars, signs, etc.
- Count, count and count again: 'How many legos do you have?' 'How many sweets did you get?' 'Can you get me three apples?'
- Do simple adding: 'Let's see, I put one biscuit in your lunchbox and now I'm giving you another one. How many do you have now?'
- Do simple subtraction: 'There are three sausages in the fridge, but I'm going to take one for your tea. How many will be left?'

Look at patterns, matching, sorting

- Point out patterns to your child: 'The stripes on your shirt make a nice pattern - red, blue, green, red, blue, green'.
- Put away the washing together. Let your child match the socks.
- Help him to sort the food shopping by putting it into the right press.

Explore space

- Give him big and small containers to play with in the bath.
- Provide simple jigsaw puzzles.
- Talk about left and right.

Help your child with maths

Talk about maths

- Use words to compare things: 'Which tomato is bigger?' 'Which box of cereal is taller?'
- Sing songs that have numbers in them: 'Baa, Baa Black Sheep', 'This Old Man'.
- Say number rhymes: 'Five little monkeys jumping on the bed', 'One, two, buckle my shoe'.
- Read books that talk about numbers: 'The Three Little Pigs', 'The Hungry Caterpillar'.

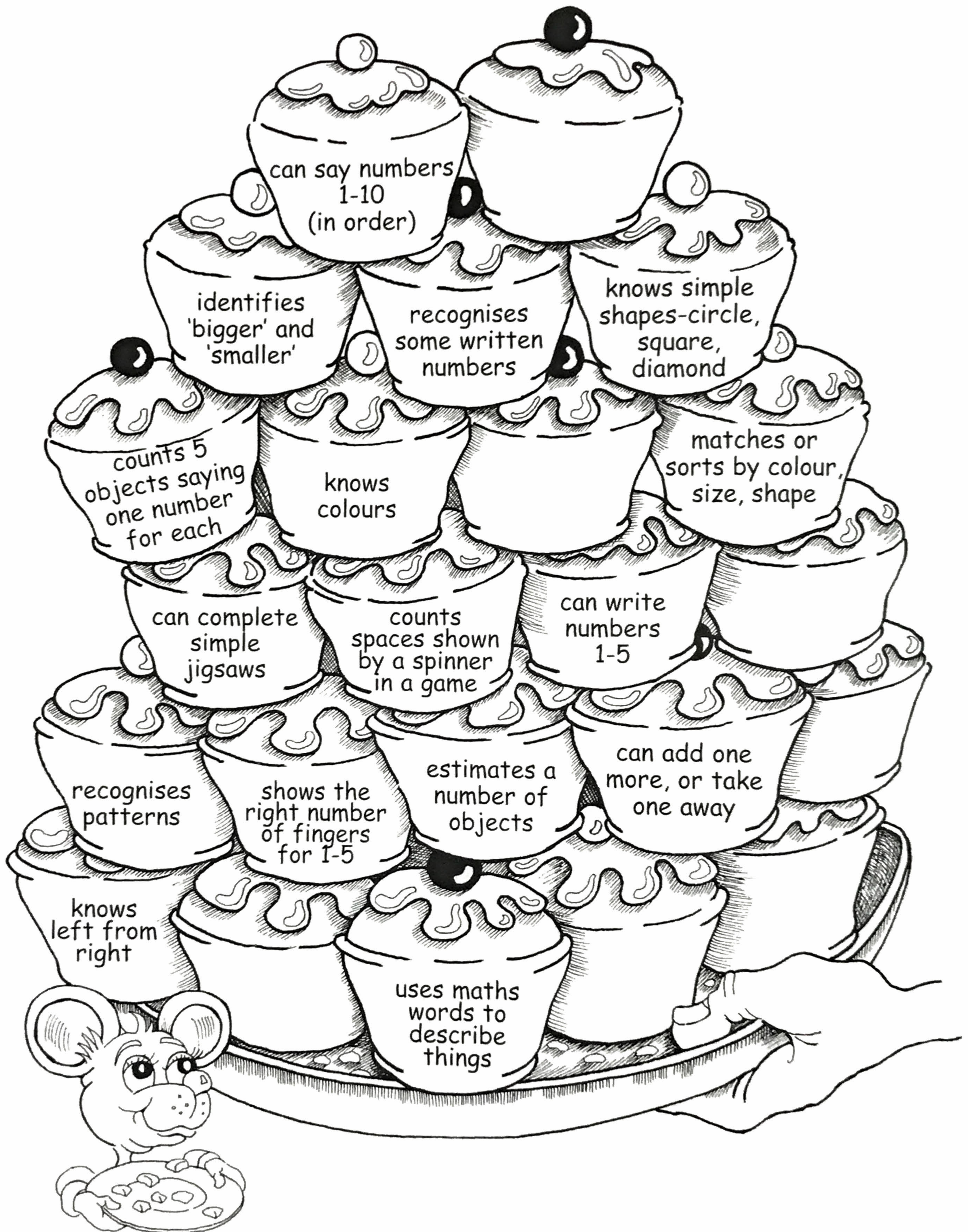
Talk about time

- Put up a calendar in a place where your child can easily see it. Use it to talk about days of the week. Mark time by crossing off days until birthdays and special days.
- Introduce your child to time by pointing out the numbers and time on the clock.
- Use the television guide to look up favourite programmes.

Use money

- Let your child see the prices of things when you shop.
- Talk about how much things cost. Make comparisons: 'The apples cost 25p a piece and the oranges are 15p. I think we should buy oranges.'
- Set up a play shop with your child. Collect some empty packets and tins and carrier bags. Make play money or use real money.

Spotlight on maths



Name _____

Age _____

Photocopy for each child as needed.





Maths at home

What maths activity did you try this week?

How did you and your child enjoy this time?

What other activities would you like to try?

What did you observe about your child's maths skills from using the **Spotlight on maths?**

Are there any skills that you would like to add to the **Spotlight on maths?**



More play activities using maths

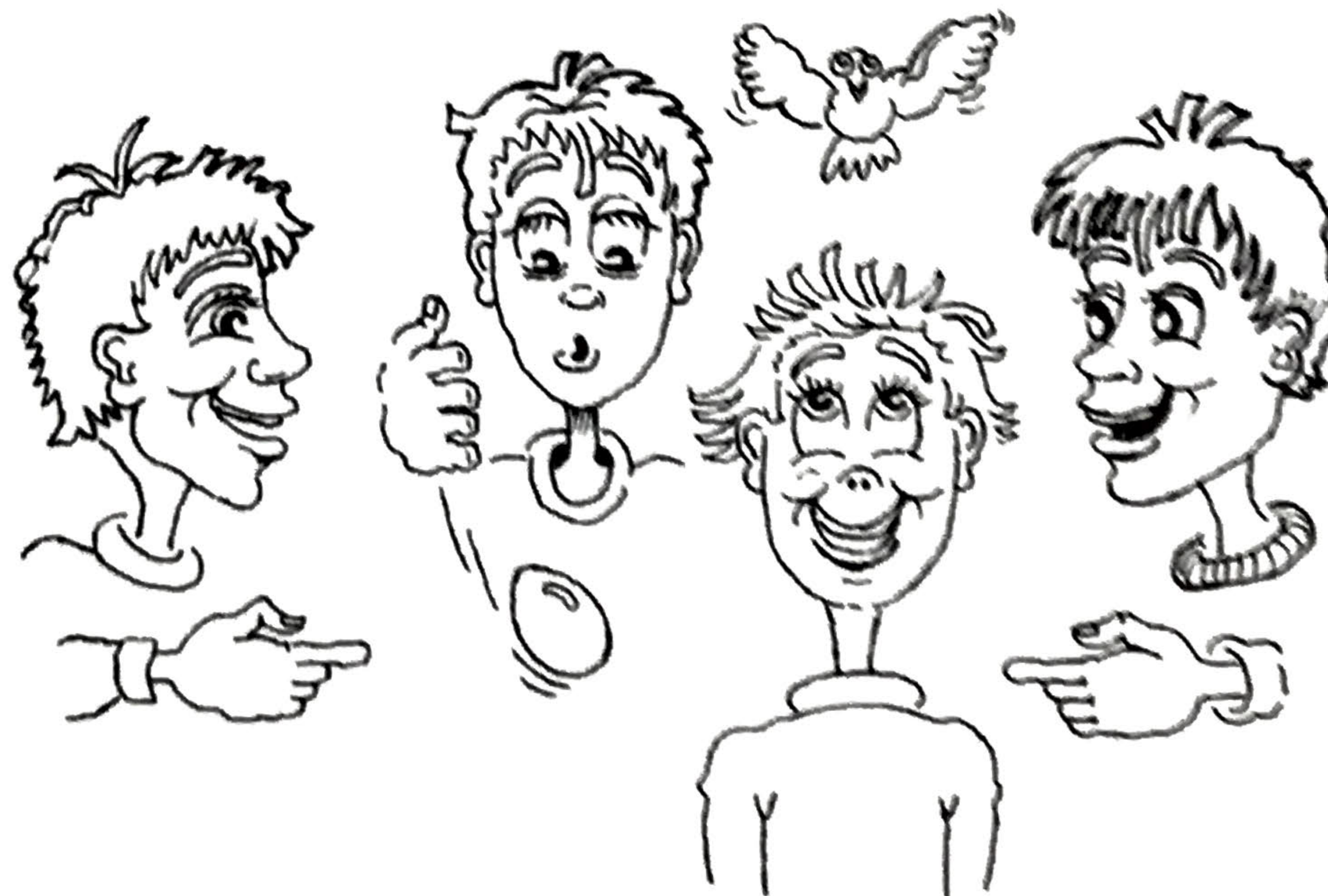
- Counting fingers and toes
 - Playing with string and thread spools
 - Playing shop
 - Dressing teddy or dolls
 - Playing hide and seek
 - Making a play house or tent
 - Playing with sand or water
 - Playing hopscotch
 - Sorting toys
 - Keeping scrapbooks
 - Making cards
-
-
-
-



Learning from games

What do children learn from games?

Social skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• following instructions• taking turns• patience• team work• talking and listening• being a good winner and a good loser• taking responsibility	Thinking skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• observation• concentration• memory skills• planning• developing a strategy• decision making• revising
Reading and writing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognising letters and words• recognising shapes and symbols• hearing sounds and rhyming• putting things in order• using alphabetical order• making predictions	Maths skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognising numbers• recognising colours• counting• sorting and matching• putting things in order• using numerical order• estimating skills



Card games

Materials

You will need cardboard (cereal boxes), ruler, scissors, stencils or other pictures, markers.

Directions

Measure and then cut your cardboard into a number of cards of equal size.

Draw or trace or print one object on each card to make both pairs of items and sets of three.

Examples

Apples, oranges, bananas; carrots, potatoes, peas; shoes, wellies, runners; knives, forks, spoons; tractor, car, lorry.

How to play

At least three different games can be played from these cards:

Go fish

Each player gets three cards. The rest of the cards are scattered to form a pond. The object of the game is to be the one to make three matches. In turn, each player selects a card from the pond, which can then be matched in a pair, thrown back into the pond, or kept and another card discarded. Pairs are placed face up on the table so everyone can see the match. The first player to make three pairs wins.

1,2,3 Out

This game is similar to **Go Fish**, but in this game the object is to fish a set (apple, orange, banana) from the pond. The first player to make a set wins.

Matchers

Cards are laid out face down in a rectangular pattern (e.g. eight across and three down). In turn, each player turns over two cards. If they match, they keep them. If they don't, they turn them face down again. This continues until all the cards are matched. The one with the most matches wins.

Older children will enjoy learning card games using a real deck of cards.



Board games

Materials

You will need a board game and spinner templates, cardboard (cereal boxes), counters.

Directions

Choose a theme for your game, then design your gameboard around this theme.

Examples

For a shopping game, fill in the empty picture spaces with pictures of different types of foods or pictures of shops and logos.

For a zoo game, fill in the empty picture spaces with pictures of commonly known zoo animals such as elephants, monkeys, tigers, etc.

For a game about the town, fill in the picture spaces with pictures of places that would be found in the town, such as school, church, post office, etc.

How to play

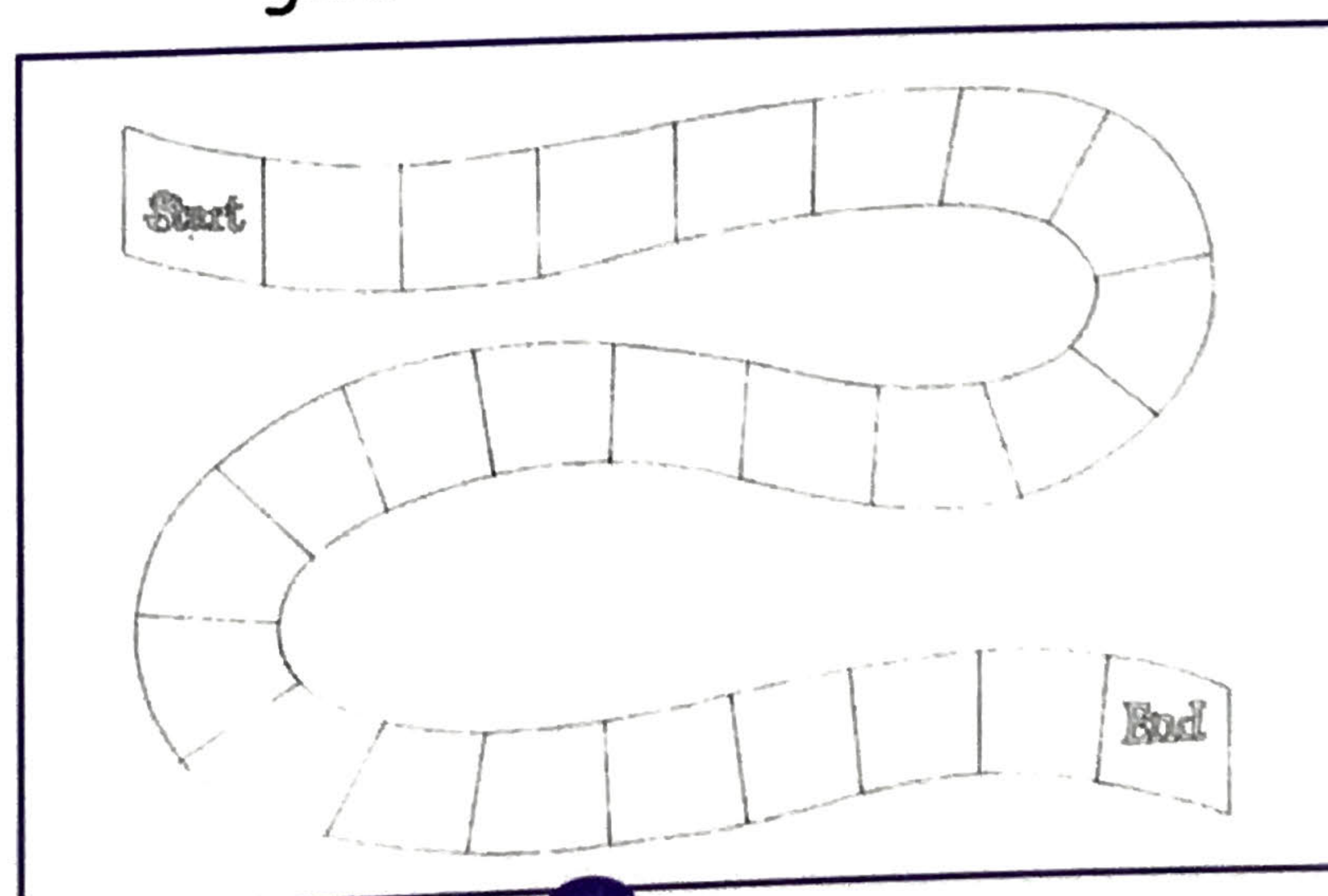
The game is played by spinning the spinner, and then moving the counter the correct number of spaces. When a player lands on a picture space, they must answer a question about the picture.

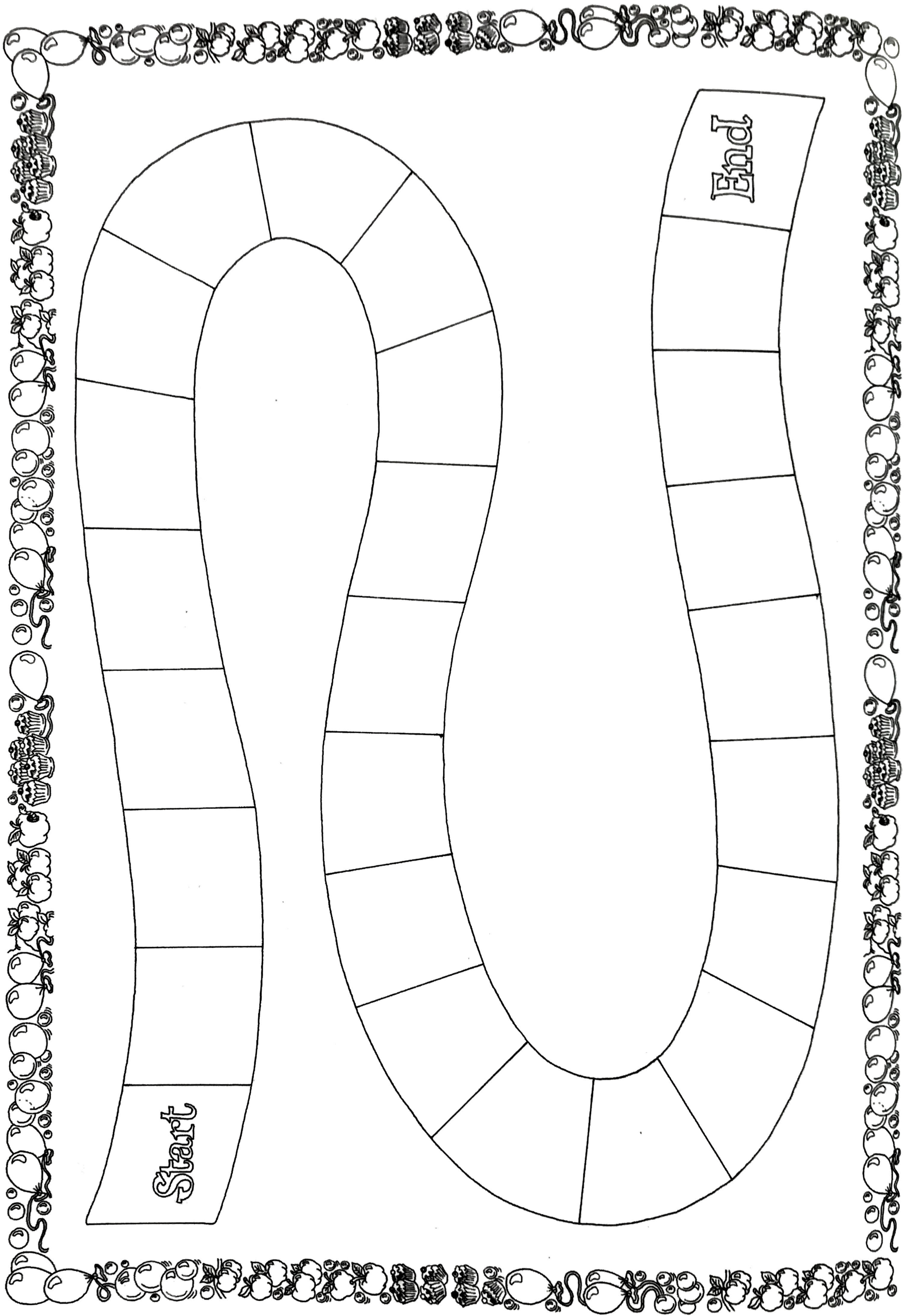
For example

Zoo game - the player lands on the pictures of an elephant. The parent asks, 'What colour is an elephant?'

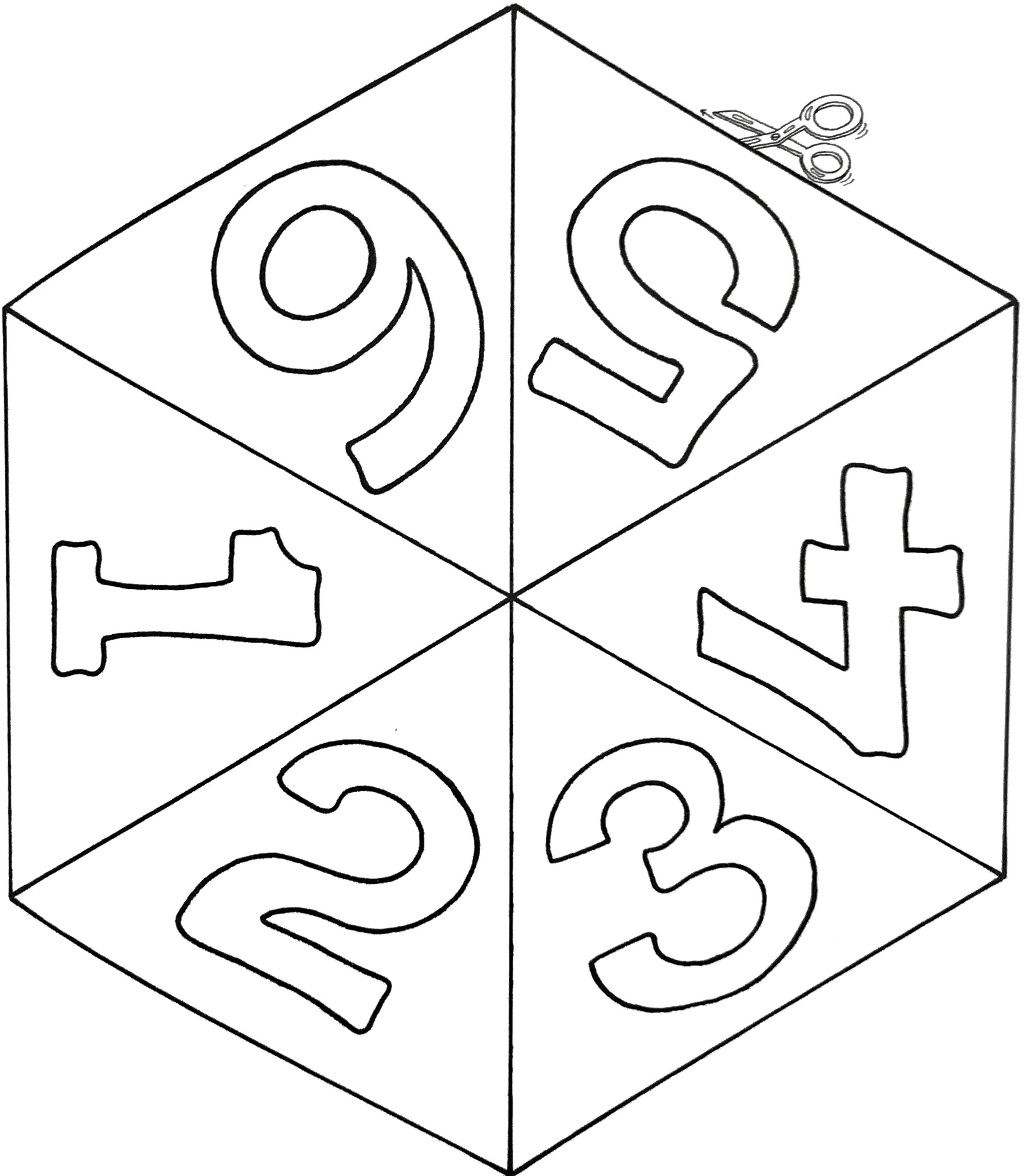
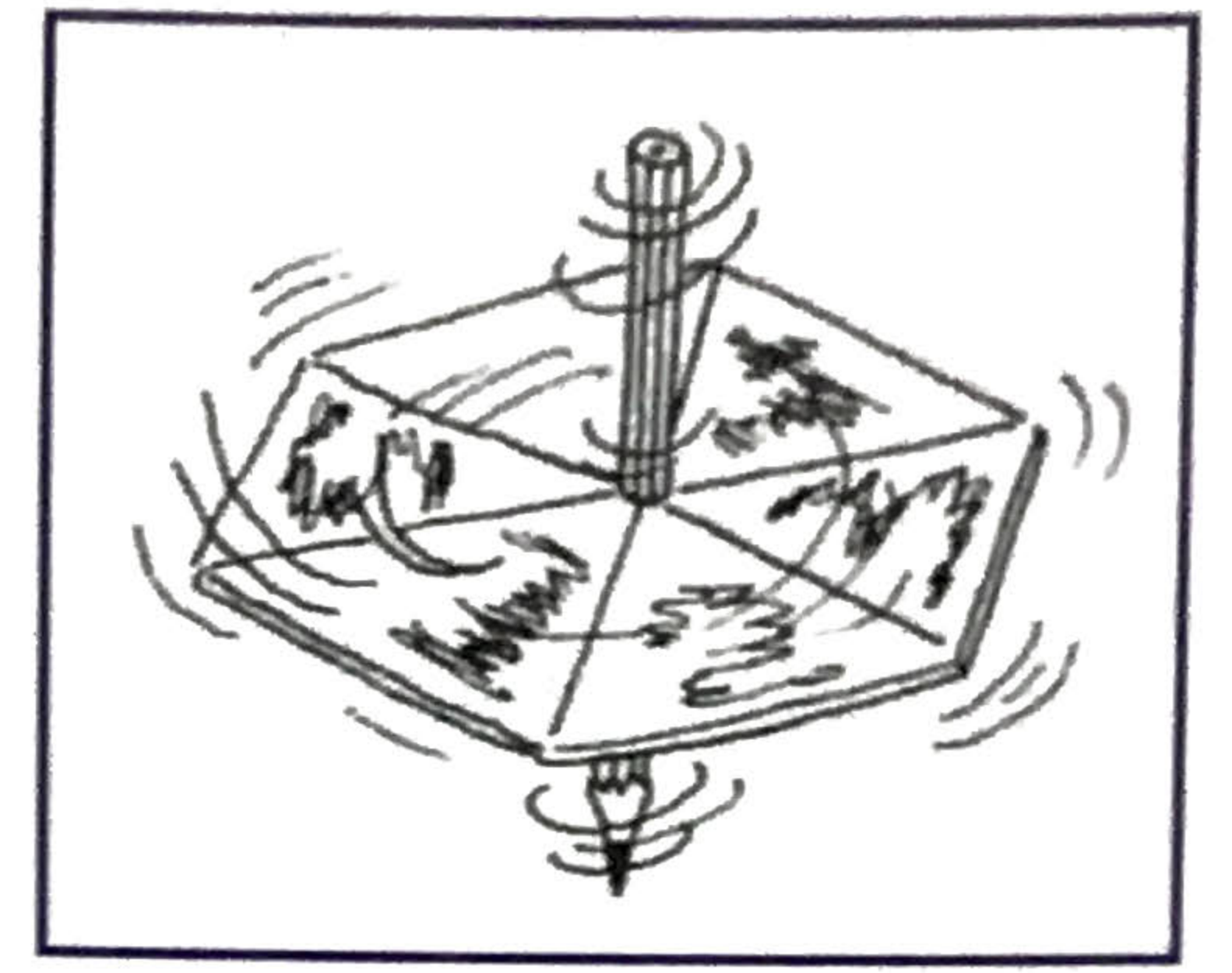
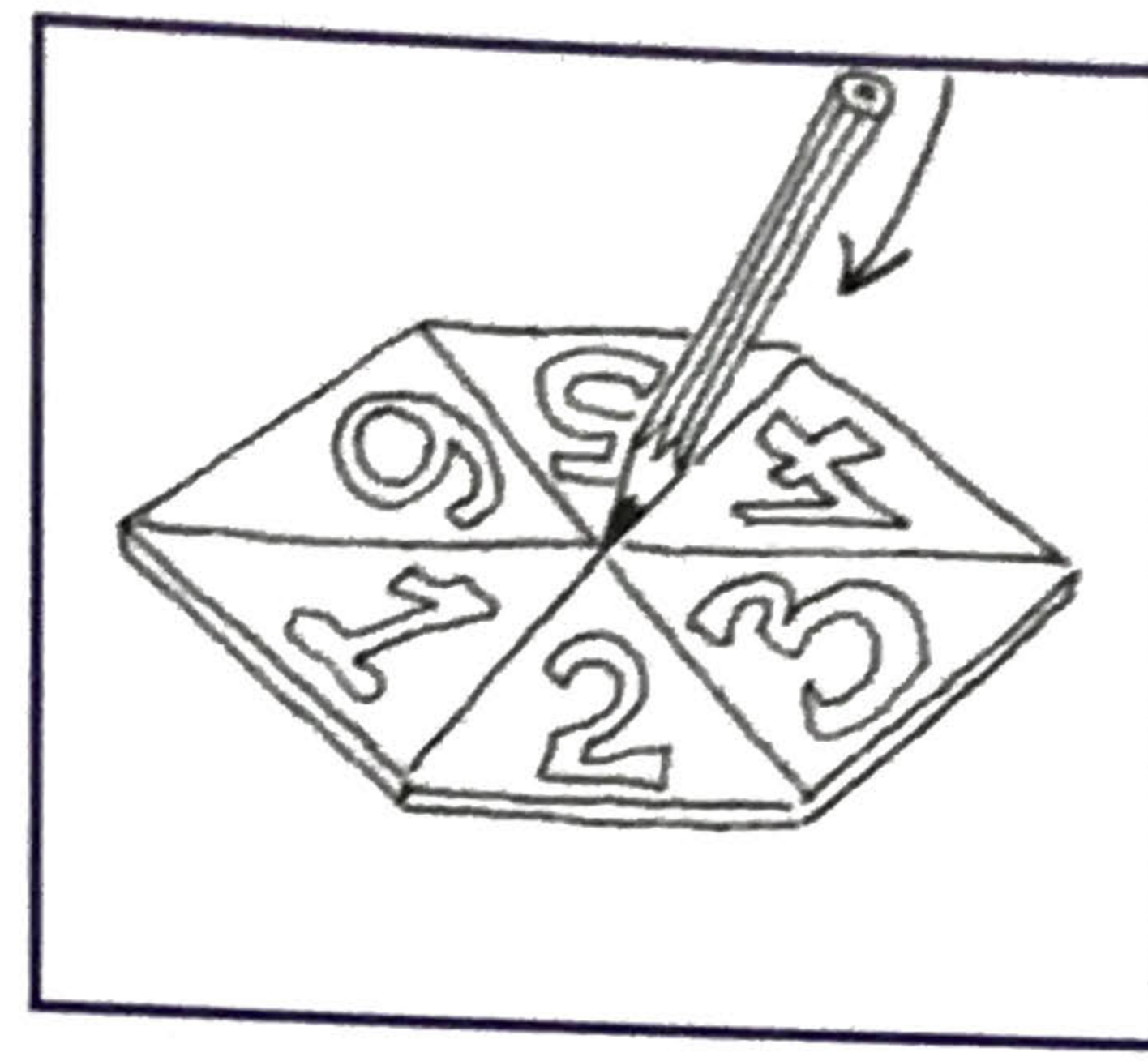
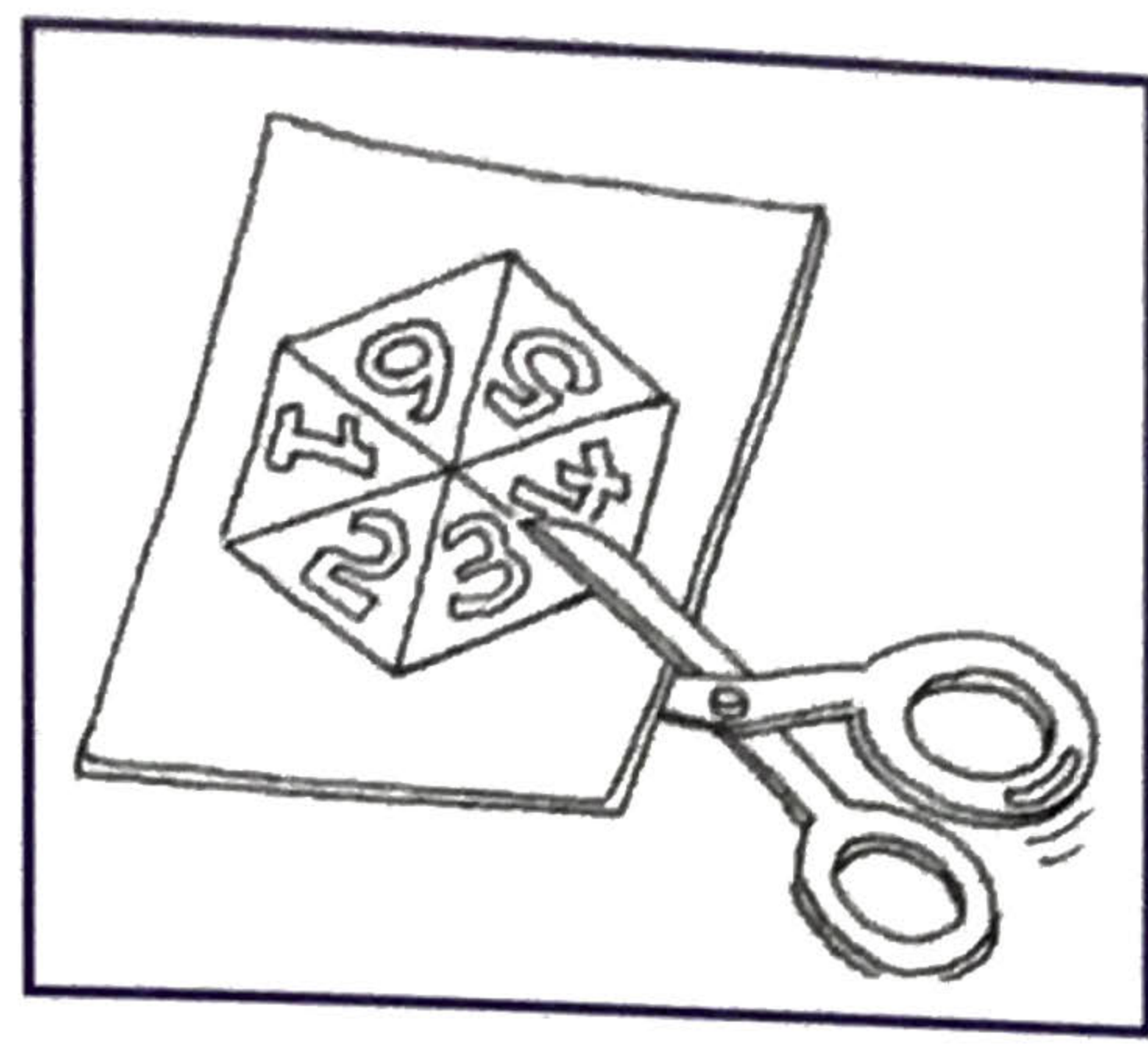
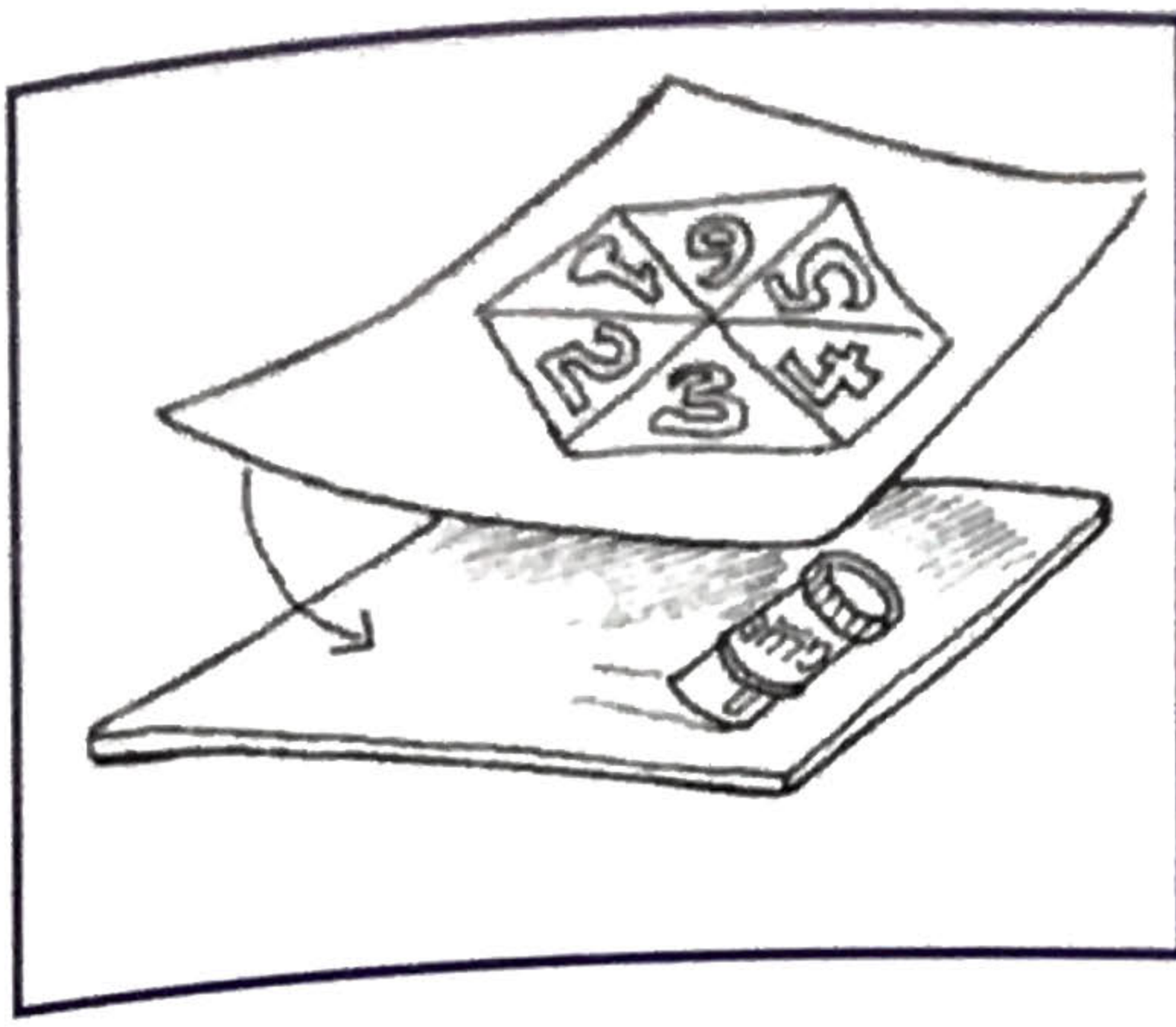
If the player gives a correct answer, she takes an extra turn.

The first player to move to the end of the game is the winner.





Please photocopy as needed.



Please photocopy as needed.

Jigsaw puzzles

Materials

You will need cardboard (cereal boxes), pictures (enlarged and photocopied family photos, pictures from magazines, drawings, Clipart pictures), glue, scissors.

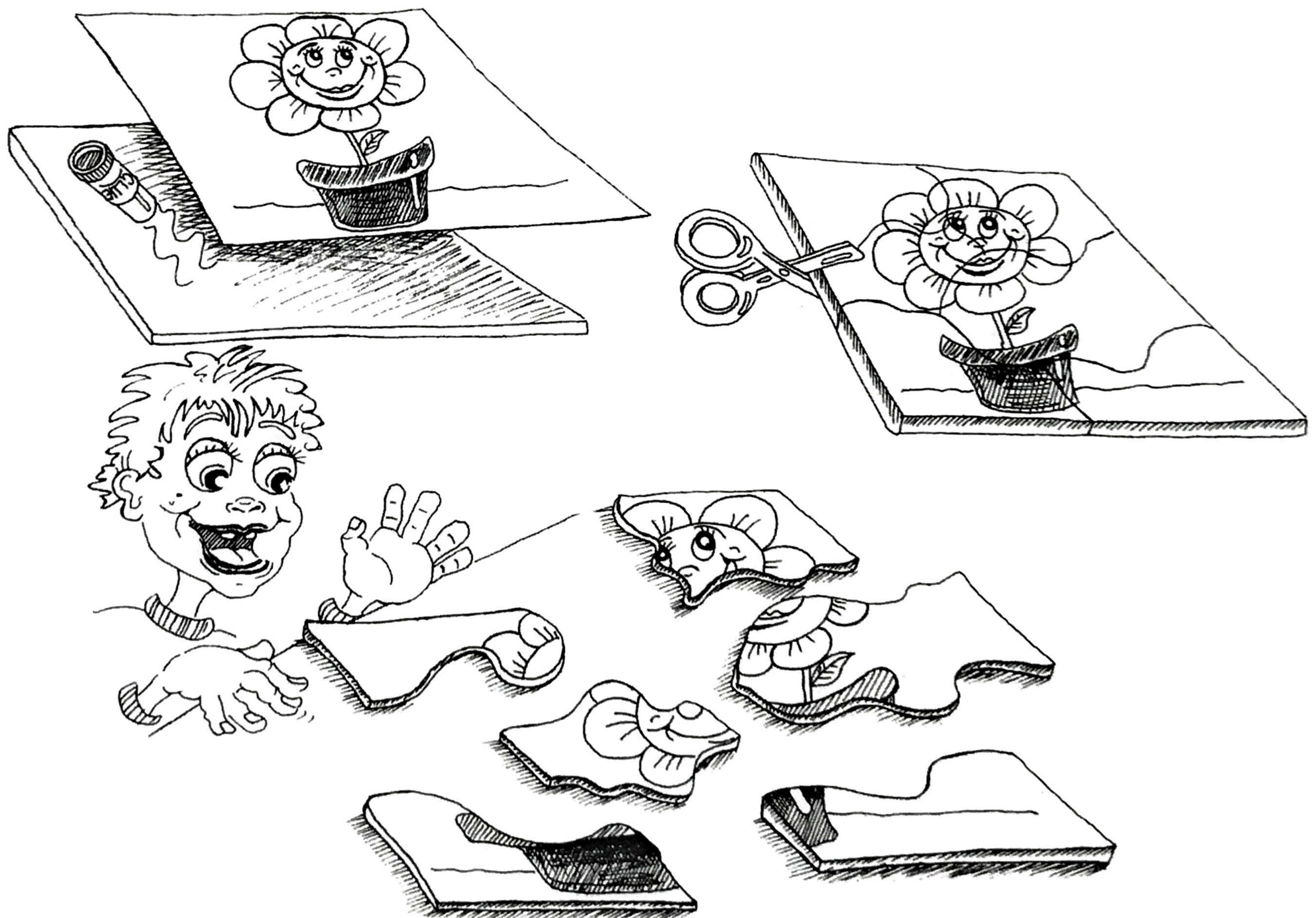
To make your puzzle

Select a picture, cut it out and then glue it onto the card. Give it a few minutes to dry. Trim the cardboard to fit the exact size of the picture. Cut it into different shapes of puzzle pieces.

How to play

Children try to put the puzzle together by matching the shapes and the pictures.

When this is no longer a challenge you can make the pieces smaller, or mix two sets of puzzle pieces together and ask your child to make both puzzles.





Playing games

Which game did you play with your child?

Did other family members join in the game?

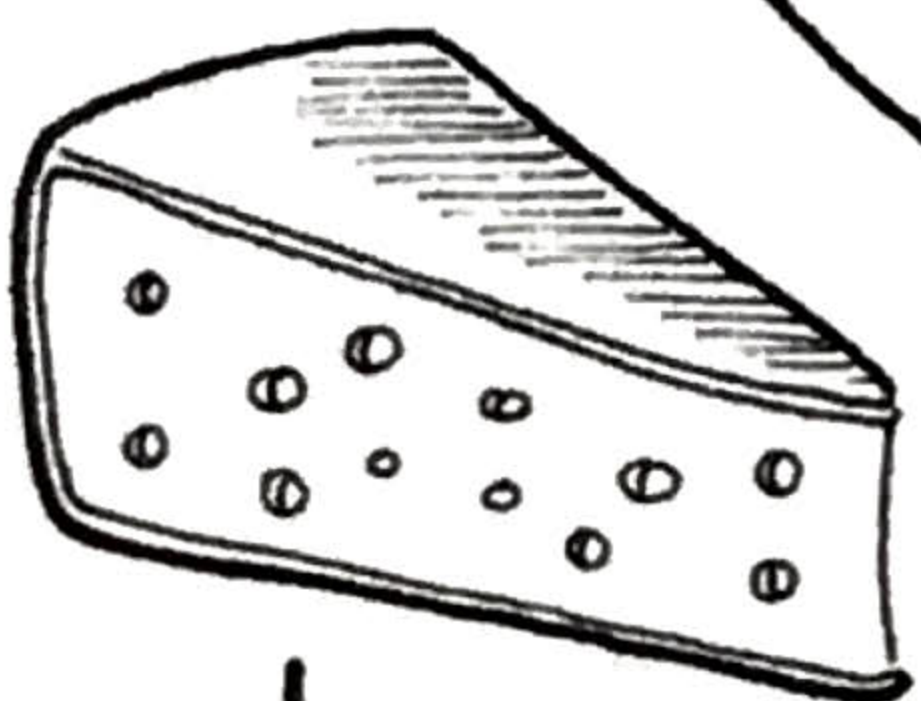
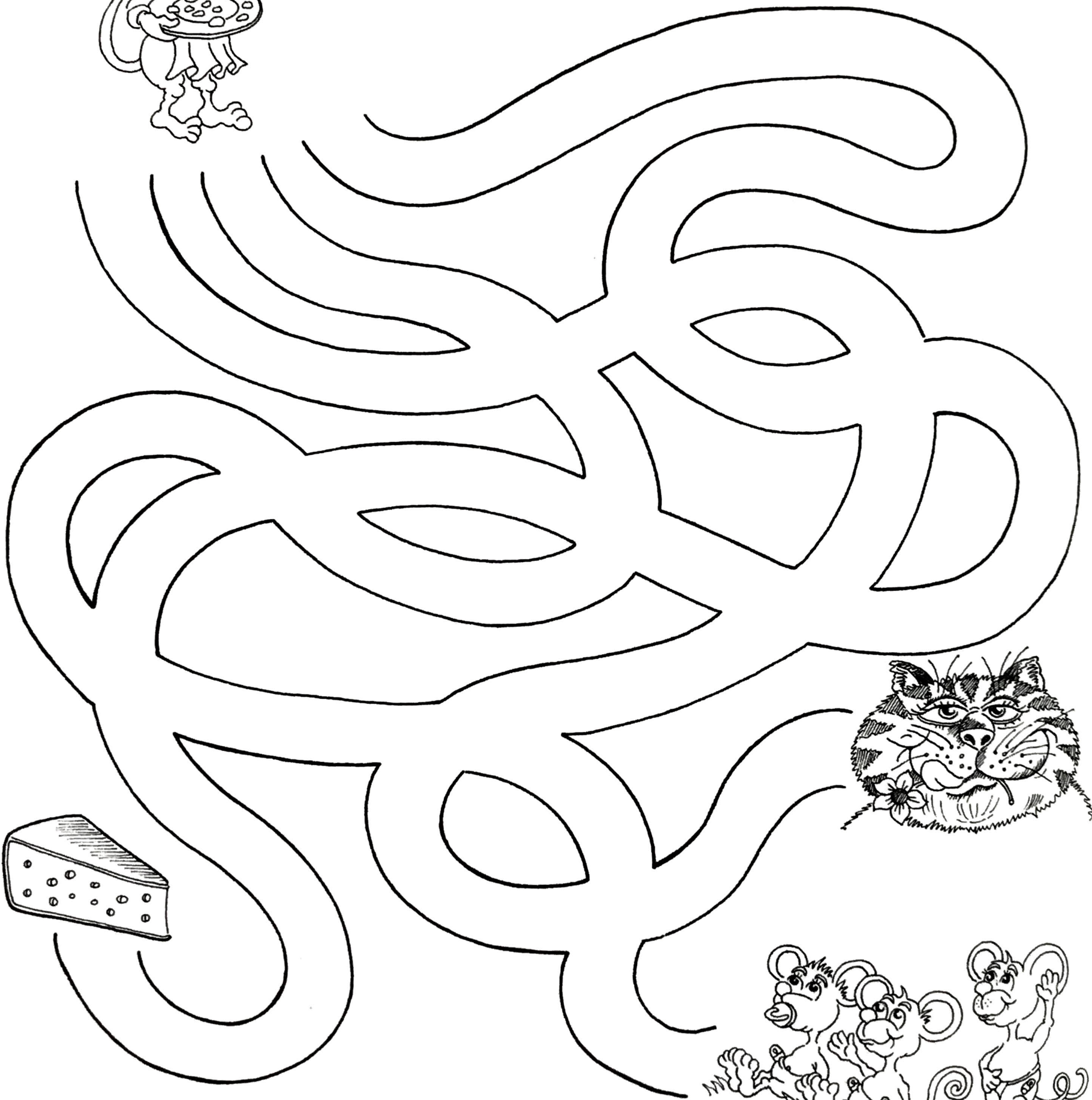
What maths skills did your child use during this game?

Were there parts of the game that your child needed help with? What did you do?

Does your child use maths in other games or play activities? Please give some



Help Mrs. Mouse find her baby mice.





Clare Family Learning Project
Adult Aducaation Centre
Clonroad Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare
Tel. 065 68 24819
Fax 065 68 40515
Email famlearn@eircom.net

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