



# Teacher Made Materials

*Presented by  
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*Thank you for attending our presentation! We hope the ideas we've included will either get you started or add to what you are currently doing in your classroom!*

*Feel free to email either Debi or Carrie with questions or for information on any TMM mentioned but not included in this packet.*

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# Snowman Match

## Preschool

Match the shapes on the clothes pin to the shapes on the snowmen.



## School age

Have more items/shapes to match, include harder patterns (zig-zag lines, stripes, varying thickness of lines, etc.)

## Materials Used

Cardboard circle  
Clothes pins  
Laminated construction paper  
Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils  
Glue  
Pictures with shapes added  
Shape pieces for pattern

## How to make activity

Glue pictures to cardboard circle. Color in the shapes. Cut matching shape out of laminated construction paper. Glue shape to clothes pins.

## Skills gained

Fine motor, hand-eye coordination, color and shape recognition, pattern recognition (for school age), problem solving, and independence

# Bowling

## Preschool

Set up pins (bottles), roll ball, knock down pins. Set pins back up on numbered circles.



## School age

Same as above, have the children keep score.

## Materials Used

2 ltr. Bottles

Laminated construction paper  
Velcro  
Tape/Glue  
Large patterns (to match theme)  
Laminated circles w/numbers on them  
Ball



### How to make

Empty, clean and dry bottles. Remove labels, if desired. Fold laminated construction paper in  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Wrap it around the bottle and tape/glue in place (where the label is or was). Add a couple pieces of Velcro to attach patterns. Using Velcro allows you to change the patterns without having to recover the bottles. If using numbered circles, be sure to add numbers on the pattern for matching.

### Skills gained

Moving large muscles; showing balance while moving; science- cause and effect; math- one-to-one correspondence and counting; problem solving

## I See Cards

### Preschool

Identify item without looking at the full picture. Use common, recognizable pictures. Cut a medium size hole. Add the name of the object by the picture to promote literacy.



### School age

Identify item without looking at the full picture. Use detailed pictures. Cut a smaller size hole. Add the name of the object to promote literacy.

### Materials Used

Pictures (clip art, photos, magazine pictures, food labels, etc.)  
Glue  
Construction paper  
Written or typed words  
Lamination



### How to make

Fold construction paper in  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Cut out pictures and glue them to construction paper. Cut hole to expose a portion of the picture. Add the word. Laminate.

## Skills gained

Visual discrimination, using language to name picture, and being exposed to literacy. For older children, reading the printed word.



## Chimes

Children learn so well with music, so why not use it in other areas of the classroom.

### Preschool

Follow pattern on cards and strike the chime according to color of the sticker.

### School age

Allow the students to create their own patterns (more complex and longer)

### Materials Used

Copper pipes/fittings

Index cards

Colored dot stickers

Strikers (dowel rods, bouncy ball, pom-pom, pipe/end caps, glue, misc.)

Covered braided cable/clamps

### How to make

Cut pipes to varying sizes (creates the chimes). Make frame from pipes/fittings. Drill hole through the top of the pipes (chimes). Drill holes for the chimes through the cross piece of the frame. Loop cable through holes of cross piece and 1 chime. Clamp the cable together. Continue with other chimes. Attach sticker to chime. Make pattern cards with the same stickers. Laminate the cards. Assemble strikers- glue items to the end of dowel rods and glue end caps on a piece of pipe.



### Skills gained

Controlling small muscles in hands, coordinates hand-eye movement, exploring cause and effect, recognizes patterns and can repeat them, uses one-to-one correspondence, independence (choosing which striker to use)



## Discovery Bottles/Shaker Bottles

### Preschool

To use the discovery bottles, the children try to figure out which bottles are magnetic/nonmagnetic, have hidden items, need to be pounded on the end to get the marbles to the other end, or which ones have liquid in them that move from one end to the other. For the shaker bottles, the children try to match the sounds that the items in the bottle make.

### School age

Same as above, plus children could make their own bottles.

### Materials Used

Nestle Quik milk bottles (water bottles will work too) Discovery- clear, Shaker- white  
Misc. items (Discovery): beads, fun foam letters/numbers, magnetic items, sand, hair gel, gems, marbles, etc.

Magnetic wands

Thick foam to cover the top and bottom of bottles

Glue

Misc. items (Shaker): popcorn kernels, rice, beans, pennies, etc.



### How to make

Wash and dry out bottles. Depending on which bottle you're making, use clear or white bottles. You may want to make more than one of each Discovery Bottle. You will need two of each of the Shaker Bottles for them to match. Be sure to glue the lids on for safety. If you are making the Discovery Bottles with the hair gel, glue thick foam to the top and bottom.

### Skills gained

Sharing, fine motor, eye-hand coordination, observing objects with curiosity, cause and effect, hearing and discriminating sounds

# Painters Prop Box

## Preschool

Add prop box to the Dramatic Play area. Let children pretend to be painters.



## School age

Prior to a field trip to Home Depot, bring in some of the items that are in the Prop Box. Have the children guess where they may be going and what they may be doing. After the field trip, let the children use the supplies to paint their project.

## Materials Used

Paint bucket

Aprons

Paint samples (3 sets – 1 for the children to play with and 2 sets used for matching activity at the table)

Paint brushes

Drop cloth

Business cards

Paint pots (water bottles cut in 1/2 and then painted on the inside)

Metal paint can w/magnetic letters and word cards



## How to make

Gather materials. Store items in paint bucket.

## Skills gained

Adjusting to new situations, plays well with other children, sharing, using thinking skills to resolve conflicts, fine motor, eye-hand coordination, observes objects with curiosity, applies knowledge to a new context, taking on pretend roles, and makes believe with objects

# Puppets

Children love playing with puppets. Puppets grab the attention of children. Store bought puppets can be expensive, so why not make your own.



### ***Caterpillar/Butterfly Puppet:***

For the caterpillar: Sew two pieces of material (one light brown and one green) together forming a mitt (minus the thumb). Glue on pom-poms and eyes. For the butterfly: Cut a butterfly shape out of a small scrap of material. Cut a slit in the middle and attach a pipe cleaner (form a circle for a ring under the butterfly, slide the long ends through the slit for the antennas and curl the individual ends). We tell the story of how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly as we take off the “caterpillar” puppet and expose the butterfly.

I purchased the items at a thrift store and spent approximately \$1.50.

### ***Bunny Puppet:***

While this one took some work, it has been a hit in the classroom. I made the pattern from a stuffed animal. I used several different fabrics to create a textured bunny. It is made out of a fleece blanket, scraps of fabric, googly eyes, whiskers, and a shower scrubby. I purchased several outfits from a thrift store so the children can change the bunny’s clothes. I also purchased a bag to store the clothes in and it has pockets for pictures on the front.



Total cost approximately \$20.

### **Putting the candles on the cake:**

Make birthday cakes out of construction paper. Add white to the top and bottom and decorate. Put a different number on each cake. Clip the corresponding number of clothes pins to the cake (I have clothes pins with birthday cakes on them, but you could laminate a picture of a candle for each clothes pin).



We had all the materials in the room. Cost \$0.

### **Classroom Rules**

We have 5 rules for the classroom and each rule has a certain color. I lightly colored over the rules with the color of each rule and glued them to black construction paper. I made two sets. We play with them like a memory game. I also made two sets and glued them to the -same color of



construction paper as the rule. We begin with this set and play it as a matching game.

We had all the materials in the room. Cost \$0.



## **Patterning with fun foam:**

Purchase fun foam shapes according to your theme. Glue pieces to a strip of fun foam. Make AB, ABC, AABB, AABAA, etc. patterns using the pieces. Supply the children with extra pieces to extend the pattern.



## **Design Matching:**

Cut a star shape out of card stock. Divide into 5 sections. Draw different designs in each section. Laminate. Draw same design on clothes pin. Children match the designs and clip on the clothes pins.

Approximate cost: Less than \$1.00/4 stars.

## **Rebus Recipes:**

Since the children are going to be eating anyways, why not let them make it. Children enjoy things more when they are able to help.

Rebus recipes can be made with just pictures (drawn or actual photos of the items) or pictures and words.



## **Bead Fun**

### **Younger Preschool**

Invite the children to place beads on the posts. As they get more experience, bring out simple patterns for them to copy.



### **Older Preschool**

Use more complicated patterns (3 colors) and encourage them to invent their own patterns.

## Materials Used

Thin dowel rods, Camera, Pony beads, Very strong glue.

## How to make activity

Cut dowel rods to approximately 8" (I used wire cutters to simply snip them and then sanded the ends.) Glue one neutral colored bead to one end of each dowel rod. Take photos of several patterning ideas. Put the photos on cards and laminate for durability.

## Skills gained

Fine motor, hand-eye coordination, color recognition, pattern recognition problem solving, and independence

## **Sound Shakers**

### Infant

Encourage the infants and toddlers to experiment with the different sounds of the shakers.

### Preschool

Encourage the children to match sounds. (It is important to have two shakers of the same sound/amount of added material.)

In a multi-age group, older children can make these for the infants.

## Materials Used

Medicine bottles with locking lids. (Many drug stores will donate them.) Various materials that make noise such as rice, noodles, rocks, jingle bells, buttons, etc. Contact paper for the outside if the jars are transparent. Very strong glue.

## How to make

Fill two of the jars with each type of material. Be sure to add the same amount of material to each jar! More or less material will produce a different sound! If being used in the infant area, be sure to use locking lids and glue on the lids!

## Skills gained

Moving large and small muscles; making music; comparing sounds

## **Peek-a-boo Boxes**

### **Infant**

Caregiver places an item under the box and infant discovers it. The caregiver uses language to describe the object and in helping infant discover where it is.

### **Older Infants**

Use two boxes and have older infant pick the one it is under. Use sign language to describe item.

### **Materials Used**

Small box (I used infant formula containers.) Contact paper or construction paper. Several infant-safe objects.

### **How to make**

Ensure that there are no sharp or rough edges on the box/container. (Look especially for staples in the boxes!) Cover with contact paper.

### **Skills gained**

This helps infants learn object permanence.

## **Sensory Board**

### **Infant**

The infants can freely explore board.

### **Toddlers**

Have two samples of each item on the board. Encourage the toddlers to feel the same items (without pressuring them to find “matches.”)

### **Preschool**

Blindfold the children and encourage them to find matches by touch alone.

### **Materials Used**

Scrap of particle board or tile (you can buy single 12x12 tiles at hardware stores)



Several samples of sturdy materials. For example, sandpaper, rough fabric, smooth fabric, pleather, corduroy, wood, sturdy cardboard  
Very strong glue (Gorilla glue or E-6000)

### How to make

Cut materials into similar sized shapes. Glue them on the board. Mount the board on the wall. Be sure to use two of each to encourage the discovery of matches! Optional: Add stringed washers, etc.

## **Pom-pom Balls**

### Infant

The infants freely explore, throw and otherwise manipulate the pom-poms. Infants will finger the yarn strands.

### Toddlers

The toddlers can have a snow-ball fight with them. They can toss, throw, and play games as well.

### Materials Used

Yarn. Heavy cardboard doughnuts (2). Crazy glue.

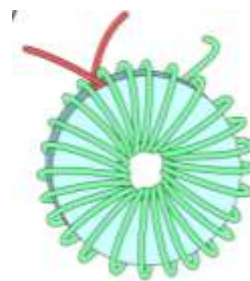
Variation: Use strips of material to make the poms. You can also mix in rough material such as twine or light rope for a different sensory experience.

### How to make



1) Cut two cardboard doughnuts of the same size. Sandwich a yarn in between the two layers.

3) Cut the yarn between the doughnuts. Tie the scrap yarn tightly.



2) Wind the yarn around the doughnuts. Use a lot of yarn!

4) To secure the strands, you can apply several drops of super glue at the center of the pom-pom.

# Scrap Monster



## Older Toddler

Invite the children to tear paper strips and feed the scrap monster.

## Preschool

Invite the children to use regular or patterned scissors, cut and then feed the scraps to the scrap monster. Use varied types of paper including index cards, strips of magazine cover, greeting cards and wrapping paper.

## Materials Used

Heavy cardboard (I used part of a box.) Monster printout. (Google "Monster Clip Art.") Contact Paper. Basket or clear shoebox. Velcro.

## How to make activity

(For a large group, you may want to make a couple of these!)

Trace and cut out the heavy cardboard to fit the top of the container. Cut a slit about ½'x 3'. Cover with construction paper, and then add the monster image and any wording. cover with contact paper. Attach to container with Velcro.



## Skills gained

Fine motor, hand-eye coordination, problem solving, and independence

# The Napping House

## Toddler

Invite the children to listen to the story and recognize the images of their friends and themselves.

## Preschool

Encourage the children to re-tell the story using the pieces.

## Materials Used

Printouts of children's faces, outlines of children's figures, bed outline, baking sheet (metal), magnets.

### How to make activity

Shrink photos to fit child outline. Have children decorate their outline. Add faces. Color in bed. Laminate and cut out pcs. Attach magnets to back. Use to retell The Napping House by Don and Audrey Wood.

*I changed the ending:*

Who hugs \_\_\_\_\_

Who kisses \_\_\_\_\_

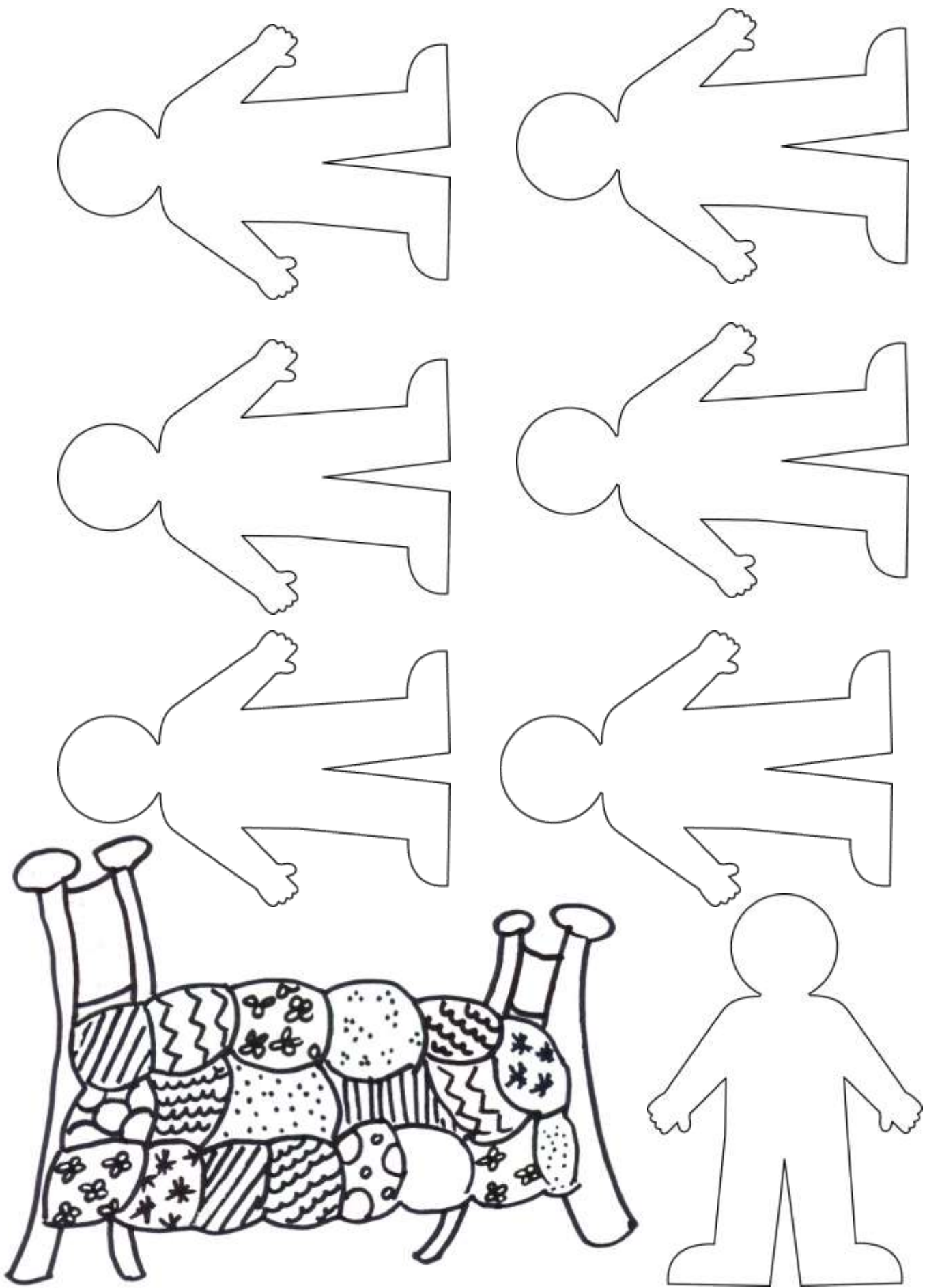
Who tickles \_\_\_\_\_

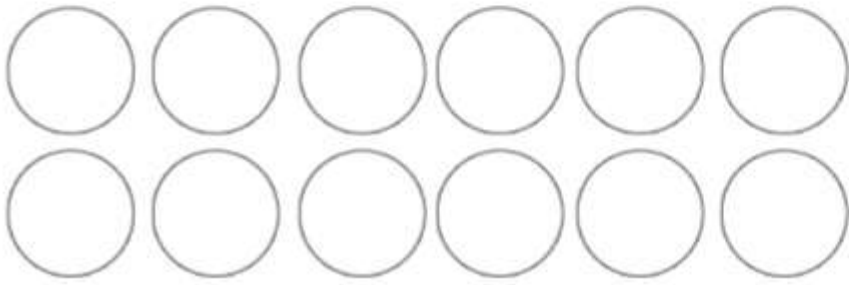
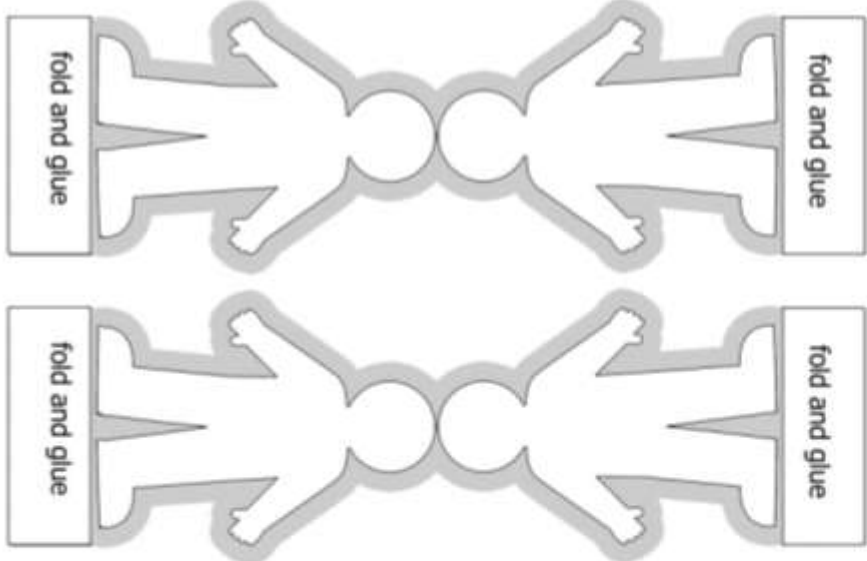
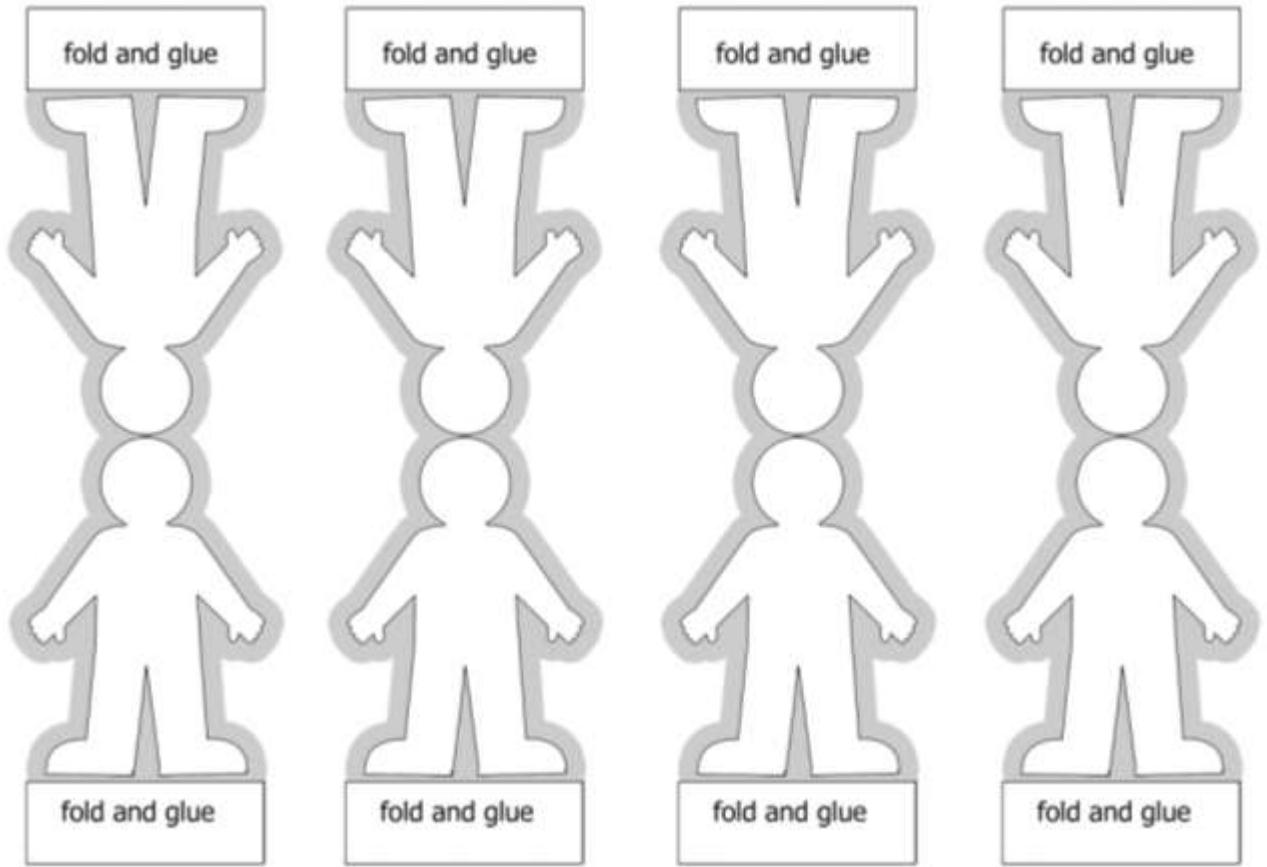
Who winks at \_\_\_\_\_

Who snuggles \_\_\_\_\_

Who breaks the bed

In the napping house where no one now is sleeping





Directions:

Print on to heavy cardstock.

Use the circles as a pattern to cut out the children's photos. (Use two if possible.)

Glue the photos on to the game pieces.

Cut out game pieces.

Fold the head and the tabs. Glue or tape the bottom tabs.

Encourage the children to decorate their own figure.

*Tip: create a circle that size in Word and import pictures. Makes it easy to crop and use pic's!*

## Game Tokens

## Resources

Aco, Home Depot, Lowes: Paint stirrers, paint chips

MISD:

Arts and Scraps

Drug store: donate medicine bottles

Dollar stores

Film Processing stores: Film canisters (Yes, some people still use 35mm film)

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/> many are not developmentally appropriate, so be careful.

Tons of great patterns.

[www.education.com](http://www.education.com)

<http://www.thedaycarelady.com/> This site has outlines of the alphabet for TMM as well as tons of home daycare resources

<http://www.crayola.com/> very commercial, but several good ideas

[www.lakeshorelearning.com](http://www.lakeshorelearning.com) see something you like? Make it!

<http://www.edupics.com/> educational pictures and clipart

<http://www.janbrett.com/> Jan Brett's hope page – coordinates with her stories!

[www.abcteach.com](http://www.abcteach.com) some free patterns/ideas – others you need a membership for

<http://www.renaesroom.com>

<http://www.createdbyteachers.com/>

<http://abcteach.com/>

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/home.jsp>

US coins <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/>

[www.preschoolbystormie.com](http://www.preschoolbystormie.com)

[www.preschoolexpress.com](http://www.preschoolexpress.com)

[www.childcareland.com](http://www.childcareland.com)

The Mailbox Magazine

Theme-A-Saurus Compiled by Jean Warren

Fellow teachers

Google (you can find just about anything)

TEACH scholarship: <http://www.mi4c.org/teach/>

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"Scrap Monster." 2006. Macomb Community College, student

"Fishing for Names." 2007. Macomb Community College

"Balloon Counters." 2007. Macomb Community College

"Match the Straws." 2007. Macomb Community College

"Kermit Dip." 2007. Whole Foods Market, Carrie McIntosh

McIntosh, Carrie. "Little People Game Pieces." 2007.

"Dr. Seuss Counting Cards." March 2006.

"Bead Fun." 2004.

"Leaf with lady bug clothespins." April 2007.

"Five Little Monkeys Song and Props." 2008.

"Our Favorite Songs." 2006.

"Rhyme Match." 2008.

"Music Shakers." 2006.

"Michigan Wildlife Homes." Online photos. 2008.

"Home Windows." 2007.

"Pom-Pom Color Match." 2008.

"Elmer Color Match." 2007.

"Music Shakers." 2006.

"Fruit Match." Online photos. 2006.