



Kindergarten Readiness

Home Activity Series

December 2020 Activities

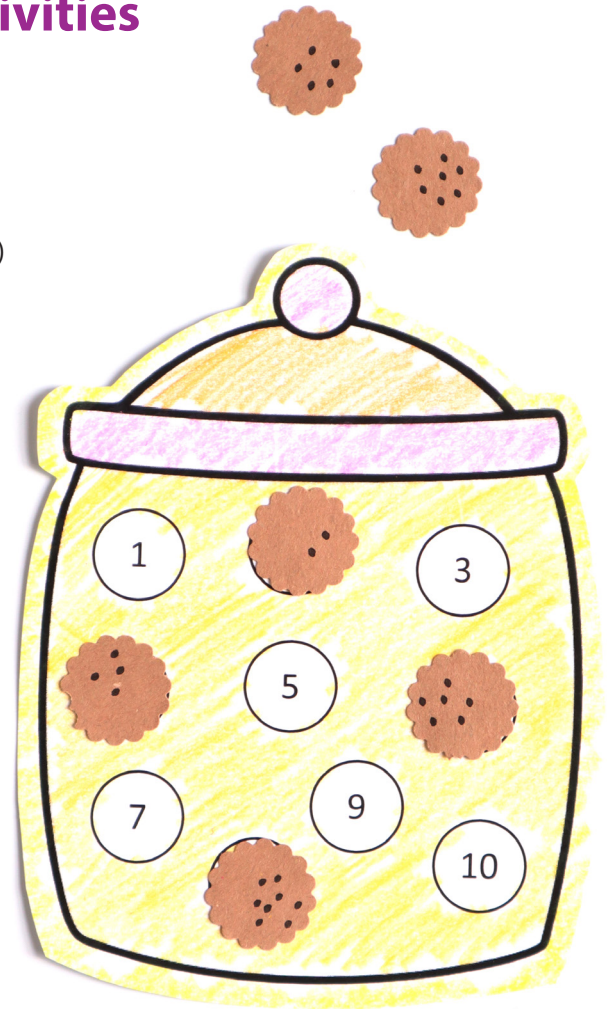
ACTIVITY #1: Counting Cookies

Materials needed:

- Cookie jar picture (included in your packet)
- Pre-cut paper chocolate chip “cookies” (in a little bag in your packet)
- Glue stick (optional)

Directions:

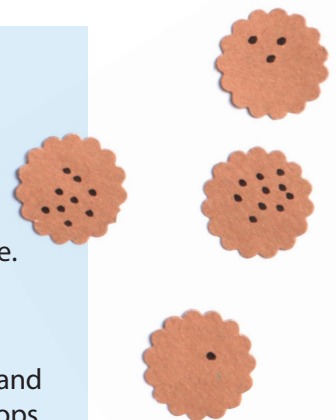
1. Parents: Lay the picture of the cookie jar on your work surface. Point out the circles in the jar to your child. Each has a number on it. Point to one circle at a time, starting with 1 and going in numerical order, and see if your child can recognize and name each digit. Try it a second time in random order; can your child still name each digit on sight?
2. Empty the baggie of paper chocolate chip cookies and have your child count them. There should be ten cookies in the bag. Point out to your child that there is a different number of “chocolate chips” on each cookie.
3. Now you and your child can count the “chocolate chips” on each cookie, and then match the cookie to the numbered circle in the cookie jar.
4. You can keep this activity as a game you can play again, or you can use it as a one-time craft by gluing the cookies onto the matching number circles. Helpful tip: If you decide to glue the cookies in place, apply glue to the circle and then put the cookie in place (rather than trying to apply glue to the back of the cookie).



Why We Do This:

Students entering kindergarten are expected to have the following math skills:

- Can count verbally from 1 to 20 in the correct order.
- Can recognize and name the written numbers from 1 to 10.
- Can put written numbers from 1 to 10 in the correct numerical order, small to large.
- Understands cardinality; they recognize that the last number used to count items represents the number of items in the set.
- If you have your child glue the cookies in place: holding the paper with one hand and applying glue with the other is a pre-writing skill. Gluing the pieces in place develops hand-eye coordination.



ACTIVITY #2: Trace to Race Worksheet

Materials needed:

Pencil

Directions:

1. Look at the cars that are on the left side of the worksheet. Have your child count how many there are and name the color of each.
2. Then point to the dotted lines that run from each car to the finish line. Explain that each dotted line is like the road the car is going to drive on, and your child's pencil point is going to be the car. Ask your child to use his/her pencil to trace along the entire length of each line without lifting the pencil from the paper. Explain that this is not a speed race, but rather a challenge course for the car/pencil – the idea is to get through all those twists and turns safely, rather than quickly!
3. A pencil, rather than a marker or a crayon, is the ideal tool for this practice because the friction of the graphite tip against the paper slows your child's hand movement down to give him/her better control. Plus, mistakes can always be erased! Be sure your child is holding the pencil correctly as they write. This is the time to begin working on helping your child use the correct hand position for holding a writing tool. Visit www.smfpl.org/kindergarten for a helpful video.

Why We Do This:

Tracing is an important pre-writing skill. It helps develop both the fine motor control and eye hand coordination required for writing.



Activity #3: Car Cutout Worksheet

Materials needed:

Scissors

Directions:

1. Point out the dotted line on this worksheet. As on the last worksheet, the dotted line is like the road the car is going to drive on, but this time, the "car" is going to be your child's scissors rather than his/her pencil.
2. Make sure you take the time to show your child how to hold the scissors – always with the thumb up and in the smallest hole, the other fingers in the larger hole, and using an open-shut motion between the thumb and fingers. Go to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten to watch our video on using scissors.
3. Starting at the point where the dotted line begins on the right side of the paper, have your child cut slowly along the dotted line.
4. Remember that turning the paper, rather than the scissors, will make the cutting easier. Some children will try to cut the paper while it is lying flat on the work surface, which makes it more difficult. Help them practice holding the paper up in their non-dominant hand while cutting with the scissors in their dominant hand, tracking the movement of the scissors and paper with their eyes.
5. If your child makes a mistake on cutting this worksheet and would like to try again, this work sheet can be reprinted by going to the www.smfpl.org/kindergarten and downloading the December activity packet.

Why We Do This:

Cutting helps develop eye-hand coordination, and the opening and closing motion of cutting with scissors helps children develop the small muscles in their hands. These muscles are crucial for holding a pencil or crayons and gripping and manipulating objects.

Being able to use scissors is an important skill. Teachers have noticed that some kindergarteners begin school with little or no experience in cutting with scissors.



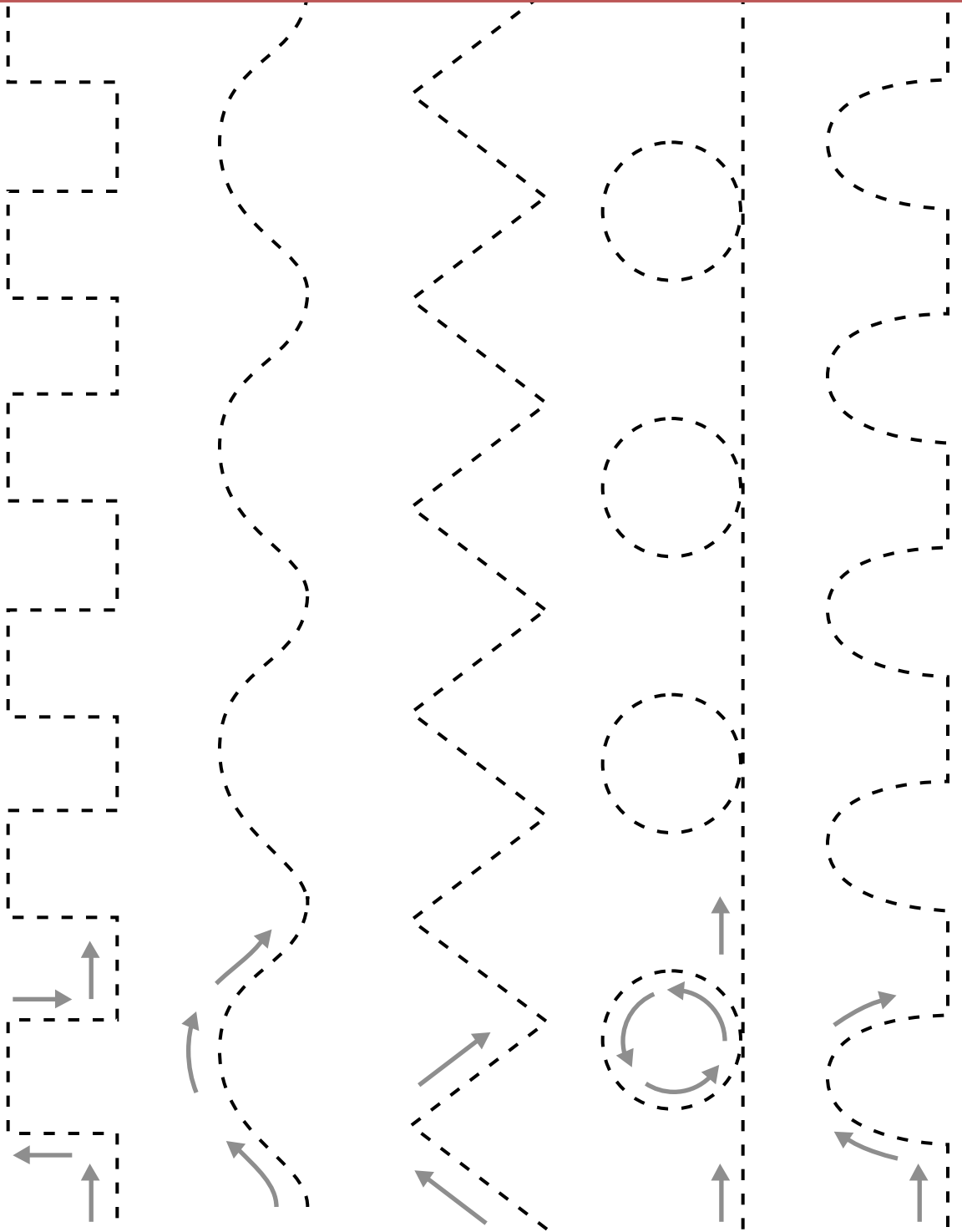
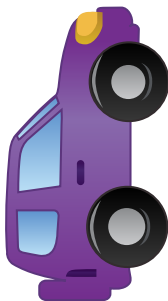
Visit www.smfpl.org/kindergarten every month for additional stories, songs, and video tips.

Name: _____

Prewriting

Trace to Race

Trace the lines to help the cars get to the finish line.



FINISH

Car Cutout

