

## Accordion Books

**Materials:** markers (or crayons), paper

**Preparation:** none

**Instructions:**

1. Start with a long strip of paper.
2. Fold it in half, matching up the corners of each end of the strip.
3. Press the paper flat with the palm of your hand. Make a crease along the folded end of the strip.
4. From the side, your paper should be in the shape of the letter "V" for "Valley."
5. Fold down one side of the "V" outwards and back down towards your first fold. Press it flat with your palm and fingers.
6. Fold down the other side of the "V" outwards and back down towards your first fold. Press it flat with your palm and fingers.
7. From the side, your paper should be in the shape of an "M" for "Mountain." Now you have an eight-page accordion book!
8. Design and enjoy!

## Your Shape Story

**Materials:** markers (or crayons), paper

**Instructions:**

1. The front of your book should display the title of the story.
2. Select a shape to be the main character in the story. Page two: the character is introduced.
3. Think about where that shape will go and who or what it might meet. Illustrate your shape take place over pages 3 to 6.
4. Page 7 should show your shape meeting a 3<sup>rd</sup> shape so now you have 3 shapes.
5. Draw how all shapes play with each other.
6. On final page end your story with a wave.

**TIP:** Children are natural storytellers. If they are not ready to write words, they will tell their story through their shapes or dictate their story to a writer who will write it for them.

## Let's Play

by Herve Tullet

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/HevJ7H5KQTg>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

Listen to and enjoy this read aloud book with your child.



## Paint Circles

**Materials:** paints (various colors), paper plates

**Preparation:** Make circles by tracing around the plate.

**Instructions:**

1. Paint faces on the circles you make.
2. Label your faces with silly names or a name of a friend.
3. You can also make emotion faces like happy, sad, angry, or excited.



## Mix It Up

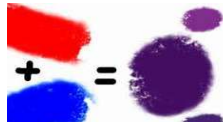
**Materials:** cups, paints (red, blue, yellow), paintbrushes, paper, website:

<https://youtu.be/WLxFNtNZa4E>

**Preparation:** Preview the video.

### Instructions:

1. Listen to the read aloud book with your child.
2. Set up paints in primary colors (red, yellow, and blue) in small cups.
3. Roll long sheets of paper on the floor. Invite children to experiment with mixing the paints.
4. Be sure that they create a mathematical equation for each one of their experiments. Example:



## Paint a Color Story

**Materials:** chart paper, cups, markers, paints (red, blue, yellow), paintbrushes, paper

**Preparation:** Choose a story to tell orally.

### Instructions:

Tell children a story they are going to paint with only paints and markers - no words!

Use example of The Three Bears to show the story using only color. As you tell the story make strokes on the chart paper to represent the 3 brown bears (Children can mix colors for brown). Goldilocks is yellow. Table, chairs, porridge, beds are free choice colors.

Children should paint them to look like the objects stated in the story as you tell it.

Now it is your child's turn to paint the story as you tell it. If using the 3 bears, give the story your personal twists! Invite children to "paint" their own original story.



## Color Moves

**Materials:** construction paper (blue, purple, red, yellow)

**Preparation:** Cut out a large circle of each color.

### Instructions:

#### Rules of the game

Red = 2 jumping jacks

Blue = 1 touch your toes

Yellow = 4 hand claps

Purple = 3 standing jumps

One person holds up a color circle and gives the movement command to all others. Get in a rhythm that everyone can handle.

Variations:

Just hold a color card up - no words.

Anyone doing a wrong movement is out.

Make other movements for the colors.

## *I am Blop*

by Herve Tullet

**Materials:** internet access, website:

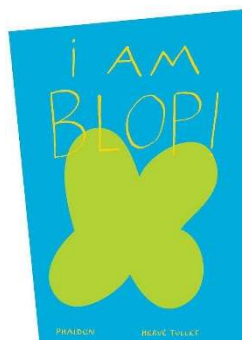
<https://youtu.be/RWdv-REoylo>

**Preparation:** Preview the video.

### Instructions:

Listen to this read aloud book and enjoy!

Watch your child's face!



## Four Corners

**Materials:** colored paper (4 colors), tape  
(Alternative: if outside use sidewalk chalk)

**Instructions:**

1. Make a square using tape or chalk. Have each corner be a different color.
2. Use something for a circle in the center. This is where the “counter” will stand.
3. Choose a player to be the counter. This player must keep eyes closed!
4. The counter stands in the circle and closes his or her eyes and counts to 10 out loud. The other players run around and choose a corner to stand in before the counter reaches 10.
5. When the counter calls out “10” players must stay in that corner. The counter calls out the name of a corner and anyone in that corner is out.

## Simple Basket

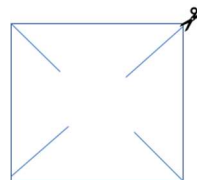
**Materials:** pencil, ruler, square paper/cardstock (about 12 inches), scissors, tape (staples or glue)

**Instructions:**

1. Draw a 5-inch line from each corner to center. Cut each line.
2. From cut line, pull opposite corners together and fasten. Repeat until you have a basket shape.
3. Add a handle using a strip of paper. No scissors? Fold and carefully tear.

See link for more information;

<https://mesewcrazy.com/2016/03/how-to-make-a-paper-basket.html>



## A-Tisket, A-Tasket

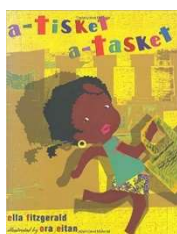
by Ella Fitzgerald and Ora Eitan

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/YiTcQ-kfqXA>

**Instructions:**

Listen to this read aloud book with your child. Discuss:

- What color is the basket in this story?
- Who is writing the letter?
- Who is the letter to?
- What happens to the basket?
- What happens next?
- How does the story end?



## Original Song: A-Tisket, A Tasket by Ella Fitzgerald

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
[https://youtu.be/s-D1N9yd\\_Rg](https://youtu.be/s-D1N9yd_Rg)

**Instructions:**

- Play the song and dance!
- Point out colors in the room.



## The Biggest Cat: Tigers!

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/-7zf2Gscf4k>

**Preparation:** Preview the video.

**Instructions:**

Watch this video with your child. Then, discuss the following questions:

- What family is the tiger a part of?
- Can you describe a tiger's fur? What else can you think of?
- What do tigers eat?
- What do they like to do? Can you tell me a story about what the tiger was doing?
- How do you describe what tigers are like?
- Where do they live? What do they need to live?
- Where could you see a tiger closeup?

## My Rhyming Hat

**Materials:** paper, scissors, tape

**Instructions:**

1. Make a band of paper to fit your child's head. Together, use other scraps of paper to create a fabulous hat sculpture.
2. Play a rhyming game; the person wearing the hat must come up with words that rhyme like hat, cat, and mat!

What in the world rhymes with TIGER?!



## Five Big Tigers

**Materials:** none

**Instructions:**

Act out each line of the following poem using fingers and whole body:

Five big tigers give a great big ROAR  
....one ran away and then there were four.

Four big tigers creeping up the tree.  
....one ran away and then there were three.

Three big tigers play in the river blue  
....one ran away and then there were two.

Two big tigers sleeping in the sun  
....one ran away and then there was one.  
One big tiger stayed to be a hero  
...she went home to her family, then  
there was zero!

## Augustus and His Smile

by Catherine Rayner

**Materials:** crayons, internet access, paper, website:

<https://youtu.be/IXSjC8dQl8U>

**Preparation:** Preview the video.

**Instructions:**

Listen to this read aloud book with your child. Have your child recall the scenes. Draw pictures of the sequence:

- Beetle under the bushes
- Birds in the tops of trees
- Snow and wind on crest of highest mountain
- Tiny, shiny fish at the bottom of deepest oceans
- Shadow shapes in the largest desert
- Pitter patter of rain



## How Painters Use Color

**Materials:** internet access

### Instructions:

Look at Vincent van Gogh's (say van go) *Café Terrace at Night* painting online (google images of the painting). Van Gogh's paintings reflect his emotions and moods. His paintings have lots of warm colors like yellow when he was happy. When he was thinking more seriously, he used more blue and green colors.

Be an art explorer!

1. How many tables do you see?
2. Can you find the waiter?
3. Can you find one horse?
4. Is the street surface smooth or bumpy?
5. Can you find the table with no chair for it?
6. Find a window that had no light.



## Finger-Paint Your Own Masterpiece

**Materials:** 2 Tbsp corn starch, 2 Tbsp boiling water, cups, food coloring, paper, spoons

**Preparation:** Activity requires adult help.

### Instructions:

1. Combine the ingredient quantities in a cup and stir. Add a drop of food coloring.
2. Make 4 or 5 colors of the finger-paint.
3. Make sure the paint is cool to the touch before using. Now, you're ready to create your masterpiece!
4. Include **swirls, dots, wavy lines, circles, and skinny and fat lines** in your painting.
5. Also experiment with **globs of paint**, some **color mixing**, or using a paintbrush.

If finger-painting is not your style, use your crayons or markers to imitate Van Gogh's brush strokes. Google his paintings and pick one you like or create your own!!

## Van Gogh's Books

**Materials:** stack of books

### Instructions:

Vincent van Gogh loved reading. He enjoyed action stories with rebellious characters in everyday life. He thought reading was like having lots of friends. What are your favorite books?

1. Gather lots of books, stack them one on top of the other to build a tower of books - maybe as tall as you are!
2. You can call it a **cairn** (pronounced kern) of books. A **cairn** is typically a mound of rough stones built as a landmark, but you can build a cairn of **Words to Read!**
3. Google Van Gogh's painting, *Piles of French Novels*.



## Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

**Materials:** markers, mirror, paper

### Instructions:

1. Write your name on a piece of paper.
2. Hold that paper up to a mirror and see what happens. WOW! The mirror shows your name backwards. Not magic - science.
3. Think about how a mirror works. Particles of light in the air make your name image hit the mirror and bounce back, backwards. The image of everything in front of the mirror is reflected backward, retracing the path it traveled to get there. SAM is MAS in a mirror.
4. A **palindrome** is a word, number, or phrase which reads the same backward as forward, such as the word level, radar, racecar, and the number 10801. Check these out in the mirror.
5. Can you think of other palindromes?