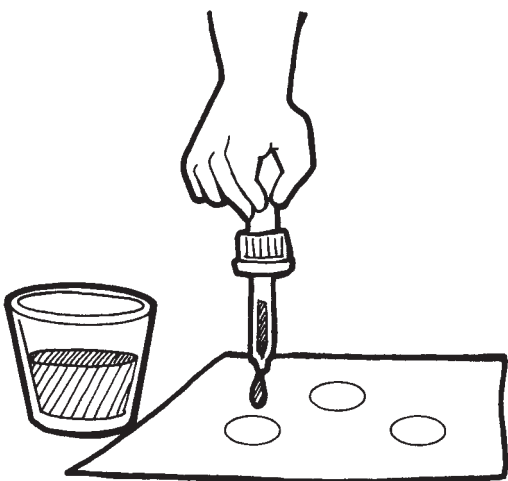


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Squeezing Activities



Dropping Water

Fill a small cup with colored water. Using thumb, index, and middle finger tips, a student squeezes an eyedropper to fill it with colored water. Then he or she releases one drop of water at a time into small circles drawn on paper. (The student needs to hold his or her arm up so the eyedropper is not touching the paper, but is about 1", or 2.5 cm, above it.) Try using an eyedropper to drop water onto a penny. Challenge each student to see how many drops of water will fit on the penny (without falling off). In addition, each student can see how many drops will fit on a nickel or quarter.

Turkey Baster Races

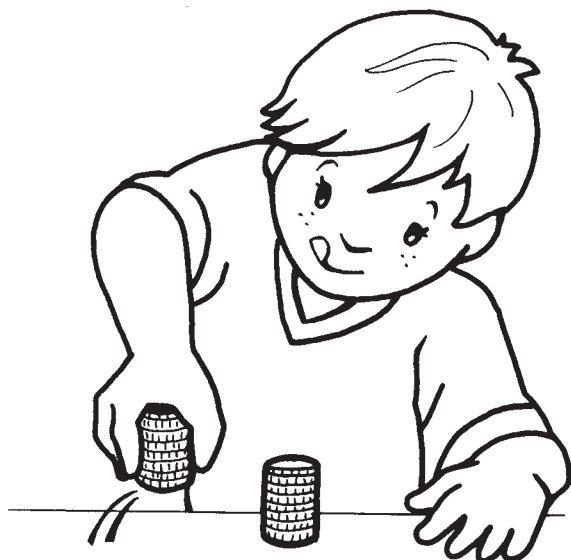
Place a Ping-Pong ball or cotton ball on the floor. Move the ball along the ground by squeezing the bulb end of a turkey baster. Air will be forced out, moving the ball. Create a game by having two teams compete against each other to race from one point to another point.

Eraser Grips

Any type of erasers will work for this activity. Try erasers that are attached to pencils, small eraser tips that you use at the end of a pencil, or rectangular erasers. You may wish to try chalkboard erasers, depending on your students' skills. A child uses two erasers as tools for picking up other objects. He or she places one eraser in each hand. (The whole hand will need to be used for large erasers such as a chalkboard eraser. The child should use his or her index finger and thumb to hold smaller erasers.) The child grips an object between the two erasers and begins by moving an object such as a block from one location to another. As the child becomes skilled at moving an object, have him or her manipulate the object more. For example, he or she can place colored cubes or tiles in a pattern, move objects from a vertical position to a horizontal position, or arrange objects to form a circle.



Penny Activities *(cont.)*



Penny Stack

Have each student stack pennies one on top of the other. Begin by having the child create stacks with only two pennies in each.

As he or she demonstrates an ability to create two-penny stacks, have the student create taller stacks.

Have each student create several penny stacks. After the child has several stacks, encourage him or her to carefully pick up the penny stacks and place them one on top of the other. Then challenge the child to see how tall he or she can make stacks of pennies before they fall over.

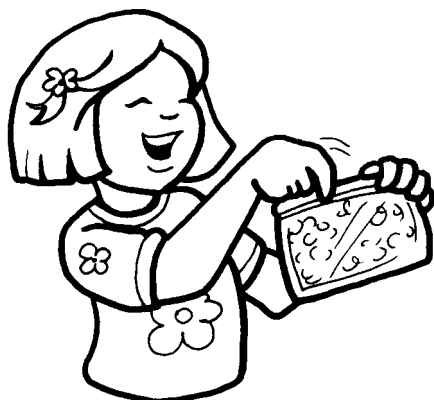
Penny Trace

Gather appropriate writing tools (pencil, pen, or crayon) and paper. Have each child place a penny on the paper and trace around the outside edge of the penny with a pencil. In order to successfully trace around the penny, the child will have to use both hands. One hand holds the writing tool, and the other hand holds the penny in place. Encourage the child to use a pointer finger or thumb to hold the penny in place. If holding the penny is too difficult a task, stick the penny to the paper using tape or play dough. Doing this enables the child to focus on the task of tracing the penny. As he or she becomes more successful, increase the difficulty of the task by having the student hold the penny.



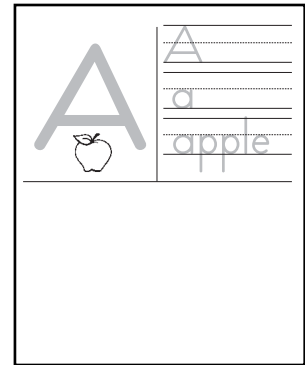
Penny Bag

Provide a stack of pennies for each student. Have the student place one penny in a resealable, plastic bag. Then, using his or her thumbs and index fingers, he or she seals the bag. The student picks up another penny, opens the bag, places the penny inside, and seals the bag again. He or she continues in this manner until all of the pennies are placed in the bag.



Letter and Number Books (cont.)

The right side of each page provides printing practice for students. First, have a student trace over the outline of the letters or numbers, then print as many letters or numbers as space allows. The pages may be copied out of this book exactly as they appear, or you may wish to create a whole page for each letter of the alphabet or number. In order to create a whole page, simply cover the portion of the page that you do not want to appear with another sheet of white paper and photocopy. This results in half of the page being printed (as in the book); the other half of the page will be blank. Select one of the following activities for each student to complete on the blank portion of the page.



Letter/Number Hunt

Have students search through magazines and newspapers for examples of that letter or number. Students can find letters and numbers in various fonts, sizes, and colors. Encourage them to find several examples of both uppercase and lowercase letters. Then, have each student glue the examples of the featured letter or number on the bottom of his or her page.

Magazine Picture Hunt

Searching through magazines to locate pictures that begin with a particular letter can be a challenging activity. For students who are ready, it is excellent practice in isolating and identifying the first letter in a word. Provide magazines or other printed materials for students to search through to find pictures. Challenge each student to locate three pictures for the letter of the alphabet on which you are currently working. For a student who needs an extra challenge, have him or her search for pictures that end with the letter on which you are working. If you are working on a certain number, have each student locate examples of that number. For example, each student can find four different dogs. After the student has located several examples of the featured letter or number, have him or her glue the examples on the bottom of his or her page.

