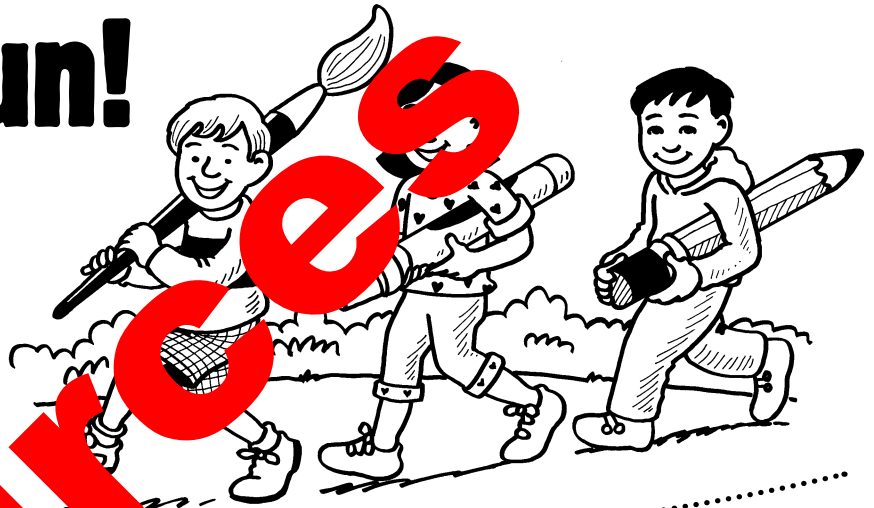


# 3, 2, 1... Learning Fun!

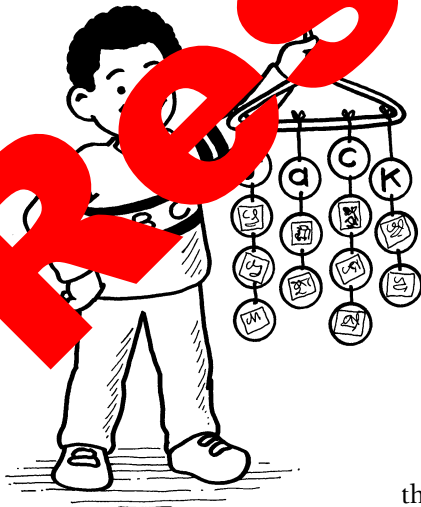
Mobiles, puzzles, and rainbows are fun to make—and your youngster can learn from them, too. Try these craft projects together, and he'll practice early reading, writing, and math skills while strengthening his hand muscles.



## Name mobile

Your child will enjoy creating this colorful mobile while he'll learn to recognize letters, spell his name, and hear the beginning sounds in words.

**You'll need:** can, pencil, poster board, scissors, yarn, hole punch, plastic coat hanger, 11 magazine pictures



Have your youngster count the letters in his name. He should trace and the can to cut out many circles on poster board (four circles for J-a-c-k). He can cut out the circles and write one letter on each. Help him punch a hole at the top of each circle and use yarn to hang it from the coat hanger.

Next, let him go through magazines and cut out a few pictures that start with each letter in his name. Jack might cut out photos of a jaguar, a bag of jelly beans, and a jumper. Help him make more poster board circles and glue a picture on each.

Finally, he can punch holes and use the hanging picture circles below the matching letter. (A picture of an apple, an appliance, and an athlete could hang from the 'a' instance.)

## Counting puzzle

Making a number puzzle is a hands-on way to practice counting and number recognition.

**You'll need:** two pieces of cardboard (cut an old book panel or a cereal box), crayons, scissors, glue

Start by helping your youngster draw the outlines of the numbers 1–9 on one piece of cardboard. Let her color them in. Carefully cut out the numbers. Then, she can glue the first piece of cardboard to the top of the second—it's a puzzle board!

Before your child solves the puzzle, she could decorate it by drawing a matching number of objects inside each spot where a number will fit. For example, she might draw one heart in the space for the 1, two houses in the spot for the 2, and three fish in the space for the 3.

Now she can complete her puzzle by putting each number into the correct spot.



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