



The MAILBOX®



Is your energy starting to fizzle? No worries! Look in this issue for a downpour of timely skills and unique activities that will put a spring in your step.

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Take a Look!



● **Centerfold: Henny Penny's Rhymes**
(see page 12)

● **Bunny party planners in action!**
(see page 16)



● **Simply Spanish activities!**
(see pages 24–25)



and...

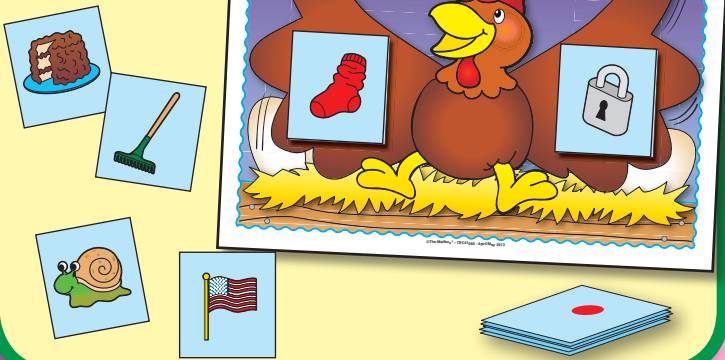
Go to themailbox.com for **MORE STUFF!**

Learning Centers

Henny Penny's Rhymes Literacy Center

Remove the centerfold from the magazine and cut apart the cards. Place the centerfold at a center and stack half of each rhyming card pair facedown. Scatter the remaining cards faceup. During a read-aloud of *Henny Penny*, such as the version by Paul Galdone, prompt students to notice that the names of the characters rhyme. During center time, a child takes a card from the stack and says its name. Then she finds the corresponding rhyming card among the scattered cards. To check her work, she looks at the back of each card. Then she places the cards on Henny Penny's wings. **Rhyming**

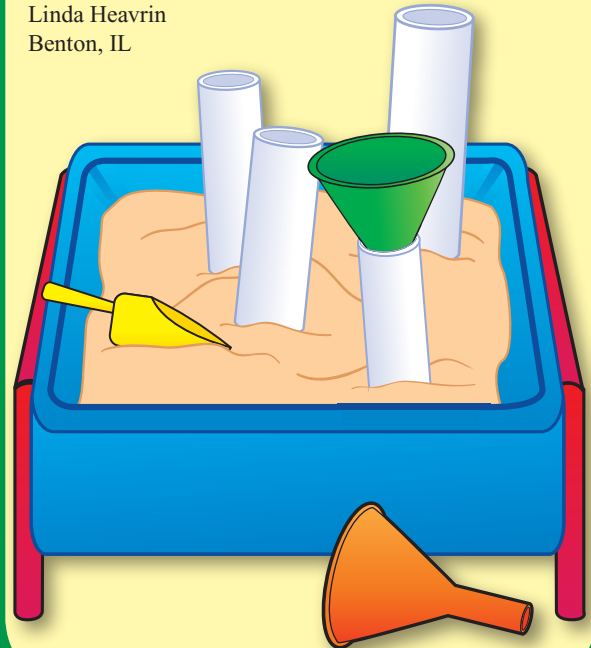
Renée M. Plant
Liberty Elementary
Broken Arrow, OK



Sand Pipes Sand Table

Add pieces of PVC pipe, scoops, and funnels to the sand table. Youngsters stand the PVC pipes in the sand and then use the funnel to fill them. What fun! **Fine-motor skills, capacity**

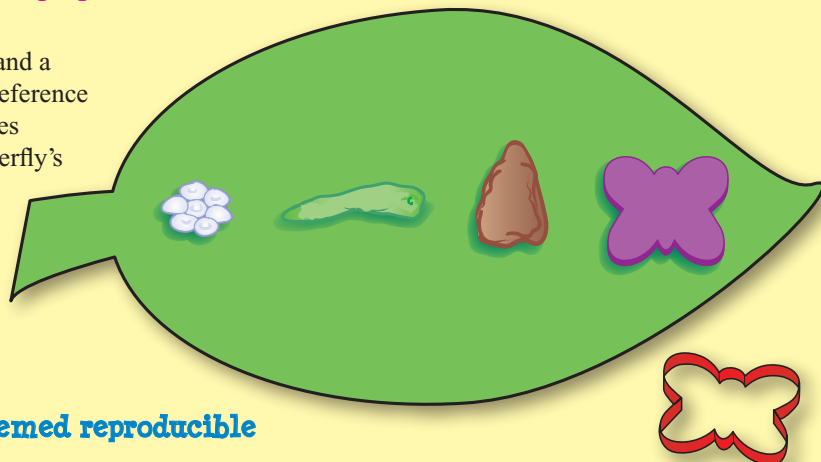
Linda Heavrin
Benton, IL



Moldable Metamorphosis Play Dough Center

Set out play dough, laminated leaf cutouts, and a butterfly cookie cutter. Also provide a picture reference showing the life cycle of a butterfly. A child uses play dough to mold the various stages of a butterfly's life cycle and places them on a leaf. **Butterfly life cycle**

adapted from an idea by Caitlin Meadows
West Virginia University Early Learning Center
Morgantown, WV



 See page 15 for a butterfly-themed reproducible on symmetry!

Perfectly Preschool Math



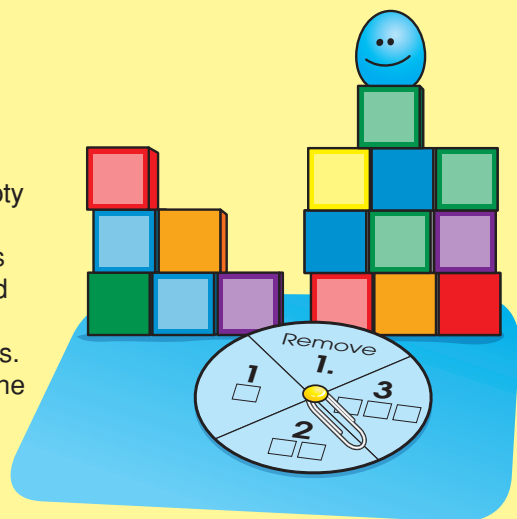
These simple and engaging math activities are perfect for any time throughout the year!

Build a Wall

Identifying numbers, counting

Youngsters build a wall for Humpty Dumpty with this easy-to-prepare center! Make a copy of the spinner pattern on page 41, cut it out, and attach a brad and paper clip to the cutout. Provide a weighted plastic egg programmed with a face (Humpty Dumpty) and blocks. Two students visit the center. One child spins the spinner, identifies the number, and stacks or removes the corresponding number of blocks as directed. A second child repeats the process with her own stack of blocks. Students continue taking turns until one child makes a stack of ten blocks. Then she places Humpty Dumpty on top of her finished wall. The students tear down the walls and repeat the game.

MaDonna Reiter, Beloit Elementary Preschool
Beloit, KS



How Many in All?

Combining sets, making a set of ten, counting

In advance, trace your hands on a sheet of paper and obtain a container of small blocks (or another type of small manipulative). Gather a small group of youngsters. Have a child count out five blocks and place them on one hand tracing. Then have a second child place five blocks on the other hand tracing. Have the remaining youngsters help count all the blocks on both hands. Then lead little ones in singing the song shown as you gesture to each appropriate hand. Repeat the activity with different set combinations that make ten, guiding students to notice that each combination they have made results in ten. **For an extra challenge**, have students write the different number combinations that make ten.

(sung to the tune of "Skip to My Lou")

[Five] blocks on this hand.
[Five] blocks on that hand.
Ten blocks altogether.
[Five] and [five] make ten.

Jamie Madorma Hartless
Chapel Hill, NC

