

I cannot think of a better use of my talent than being creator of Spot.

Since the first Spot book, ***Where's Spot?*** was published in 1980, the stories have been enthusiastically received by children, parents and teachers all over the world. It gives me great pleasure to know that the puppy I invented for my son has brought such enjoyment to so many other children in different countries and cultures. I am also thrilled that Spot has become an educational aid for both children and adults.

I hope that teachers, parents and children will enjoy the activities in this pack as much as they enjoy the books.

Eric Hill

Conditions for Use

The activity sheets contained in this pack may be photocopied for use in your classroom or playgroup for the purposes outlined in this pack only.

No part of this pack may be used for any commercial purpose in any material form without the express written consent of the publisher.

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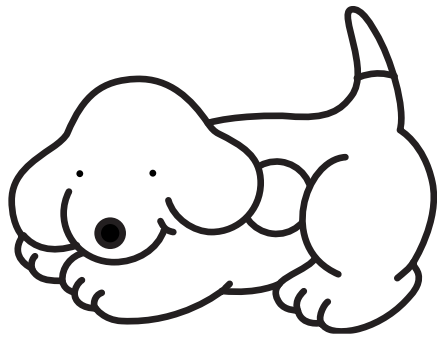
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Learning Fun with Spot

How to use this pack

Spot is a wonderful ally in the classroom or playgroup, because he is a familiar figure to the young child. The bold outlines and colourful, simple pictures in the **Spot** books are easily recognisable and, added to this, Spot is an early learner himself, whether off on a first trip into the outside world, going on holiday or coping with a new sibling. Spot's friendly face and jolly personality will reassure children that acquiring new skills needn't be just hard work - it can be fun too!

This Education Pack - along with the **Spot** books and videos - is perfect for use in pre-school groups and planned activities for Key Stage 1 pupils during Literacy Hour and Mathematics Lesson. The activities in the pack have been designed to support the development of early literacy and numeracy skills (the key areas in which nursery children's progress is assessed before their entry into primary school).

The wide range of subjects covered by the various **Spot** books (see the biography overleaf) can be used to spark off all sorts of group discussions and topic work. The teacher may like to read a story aloud to the class, for example in support of the first section of the Literacy Hour, calling different children in turn to open the flaps, (the big book version of **Where's Spot?** is ideal for this purpose). The session may then broaden into a general discussion, followed by whatever further reading or number work is appropriate. Listening to the stories being read aloud and seeing the printed page will also help children's word recognition when they are ready to start reading (see below for further ideas on using individual books in class).

Duplicate copies of **Spot** books can then be used during the shared reading stage of the prescribed learning hours. The activity sheets in this folder can be used during group and independent work time and will give children practice in the various reading, writing and language skills they need to master. Shapes, telling the time, counting and sorting activities will also provide the opportunity for all sorts of creative fun and games.

Spot videos can also be used as an opportunity for children to learn, using an alternative medium, within a relaxed environment. There can be all sorts of fun memory tests to see how much they have remembered and understood from the story videos and the *Fun-to-learn with Spot* films provide an entertaining way to work with important early concepts.

There are also two brand new **Spot** CD-ROMS (*Spot's Busy Day* and *Spot and His Friends*) which introduce children to the world of computers through stories, games and puzzles. Each is based around four familiar stories, linked to the most popular and educationally relevant themes in the lift-the-flap books. Many of the activities involve an element of choice leading to a different outcome each time, and all encourage children to become familiar with using the mouse and comfortable finding their way around the screen, using navigational tools.

Use of the range of **Spot** material in conjunction with the activity sheets in this pack can support children's learning as follows:

Preparation for Reading

It is very helpful for young children if, before they start being asked to recognise letters and words, they have had some practice in developing perceptive skills (such as noticing the differences in size and detail, and becoming accustomed to moving their eyes from left to right in a sequence). They will also need appropriate language and comprehension ability, so that they can understand the stories and information they will soon be able to read, and put their own experiences into words. The ideas in the activity sheets develop such skills in the following ways:

Observation

Activities such as 'Spot the difference' will encourage children to look carefully and notice detail; matching pairs provides practice in sorting and the recognition of shapes and outlines.

Storytelling and Sequencing

Story strips are very useful in the pre-reading stage because they encourage children to interpret a story and put it into their own words, following a sequence of events and 'reading' from left to right.

Where's Spot? is perfect to use as a model for making a simple first book. Even very young children will enjoy using their own drawings as flaps or background scenes, and putting themselves in the book, as hiders or seekers! A fun hide and seek game can also be made by covering a variety of objects on a tray with a cloth and seeing whether the children can remember them all. Good for developing powers of concentration and observation!

Preparation for Writing

A certain amount of manual dexterity is required before children can begin to write successfully.

Fine Motor Skills

'Join the dots' puzzles can help children with pencil control and get them used to the idea of guiding their pencil across the paper. Colouring also practises these skills, as does the drawing of lines to connect the correct pictures or items with each other. It's a great help if children are able to handle scissors effectively when they begin primary school too, and this also helps develop the fine motor skills.

Spot Goes to School is a good book for introducing creative activities and talking about the school environment generally. Spot emerges enthusiastically from school with a sheaf of paw print paintings! This can be followed up by asking children to print their own handprints and footprints. More broadly, discussion about the children's own experiences at school can be generated. Is Spot's school similar to theirs? In what ways? How do the children think Spot is feeling when he first begins school? Did they feel the same way when they first started? Such questions provide scope for discussion about feelings: happy, sad, frightened, nervous etc.

Number Work

Understanding basic concepts of size, measurement, shape and number is an important basis from which children can go on to learn more advanced numerical concepts.

Counting

Children need to understand what numbers actually represent, and there are several activity sheets, which link concepts with numbers (written as a figure rather than a word, though the words may also be added on to the activity sheets by the teacher if required).

Sorting, Measuring and Weighing

Sorting out which things belong to Spot and which to his father Sam in the 'Tidy up time' activity introduces concepts of bigger and smaller, and this is something that can be discussed when reading ***Spot*** books in class. Cooking is lots of fun and great measuring and counting practice, so ***Spot Bakes a Cake*** is wonderful for sparking off all sorts of practical activities. Shopping is something most small children are familiar with, even at second-hand! Sally and Spot make a shopping list, for example, and children can make their list too, with drawings instead of words.

Shapes

Recognition of shapes is an essential mathematical skill, and one that can be extended in many different ways (***Spot's Big Book of Colours, Shapes and Numbers*** is a very useful addition to the library shelf). After they've finished the activity sheet, children may like to identify shapes all around them, for example; how many shapes can they recognise in the contents of their lunchboxes?

Telling the Time

Although young children won't need or want to tell the time in 5-minute intervals, they can and should be aware of the passage of time throughout their day, and what kinds of things happen when. Again, Spot can act as a catalyst for group discussion, and children can make their own daily timetables, based on Spot's.

Early Science Activities

There is huge scope for using **Spot** stories and these activity sheets as the starting point for discussion about the world around us and topic work on a variety of subjects.

Spot Goes to the Farm can be used to introduce the 'Spot at the farm' activity sheet but is also valuable in its own right to talk about baby animals. What is a baby goat called? and a baby sheep? and so on. This book is also the perfect introduction for a class visit to an adventure or play farm, open to the public.

The World Around Us

The activity sheets which deal with weather are useful reinforcement after a general discussion about the changing seasons. Which materials keep us warm or dry? Why must we be careful in the sun? How many ways can we think of to keep ourselves warm?

Spot's First Walk

This book is a marvellous introduction to the environment, as Spot sees, hears and smells the world around him. Taking children for a short walk and making them concentrate on their senses in this way can have wonderful results. They can concentrate solely on what they hear, for example. Lots of scope for discussion about the senses.

Bibliography

Books: Published by Warne and Puffin.

To order direct call Penguin Direct on 020 8757 4036

Lift-the-Flap Books

<i>Where's Spot?</i>	<i>Spot's First Easter</i>
<i>Spot Can Count</i>	<i>Spot Goes to the Farm</i>
<i>Spot Goes to the Circus</i>	<i>Spot's First Walk</i>
<i>Spot's Baby Sister</i>	<i>Spot Bakes a Cake</i>
<i>Spot Goes to School</i>	<i>Spot Goes on Holiday</i>
<i>Spot Stays Overnight</i>	<i>Spot's Birthday Party</i>
<i>Spot Goes to the Park</i>	<i>Spot Goes to a Party</i>
<i>Spot's First Christmas</i>	<i>Spot Visits his Grandparents</i>

Board Books

<i>Spot at the Carnival</i>	<i>Goodnight Spot</i>
<i>Spot Helps Out</i>	<i>Spot Looks At Colours</i>
<i>Play With Spot</i>	<i>Spot's Toy Box</i>
<i>Spot At Home</i>	<i>Spot in the Garden</i>
<i>Spot at the Farm</i>	<i>Spot and Friends Dress Up (with stickers)</i>
	<i>Spot and Friends Play (with stickers)</i>

Lift the Flap Board Books

<i>Where's Spot?</i>	<i>Spot's First Christmas (pub Nov 2000)</i>
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Story Books

<i>Spot's Bedtime Storybook*</i>	<i>Spot's Magical Christmas</i>
<i>Spot and his Grandparents go to the Carnival</i>	
<i>Spot Goes Splash *</i>	<i>Spot's Windy Day*</i>

Novelty Books

<i>Spot Plays Hide & Seek (Soundbook)*</i>	
<i>Spot's Noisy Walk (Soundbook)*</i>	
<i>Spot's Touch and Feel Book*</i>	<i>Spot's Favourite Colours*</i>
<i>Spot's Favourite Numbers*</i>	<i>Spot's Favourite Words*</i>
<i>Spot's Favourite Baby Animals*</i>	

Concept Books

<i>Spot's Big Book of Words*</i>	<i>Spot's Book of Colours, Shapes and Numbers*</i>
<i>Spot Tells the Time*</i>	

Giant Story Books

Where's Spot?†

* Indicates only available in hardback † Indicates only available in paperback

For information on **Spot** videos please ring Buena Vista Home Entertainment on:
020 8222 2766

For details about the **Spot** CD-ROM products, please contact Hasbro Interactive direct
on 0208 569 1234

Visit the **Spot** website at www.funwithspot.com

Activity Sheet Notes

Spot and his friends

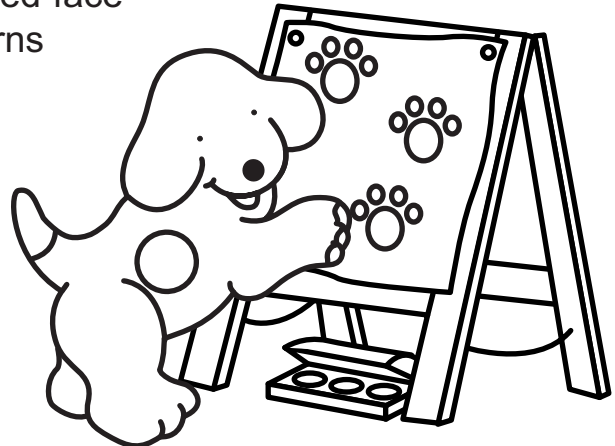
We have included some simple outline pictures of Spot and his friends in this pack. These can be used in a number of ways:

I For colouring or tracing practice. Group pictures can also be made with each child colouring a different character and then all of them being assembled on a common background.

A big red bus can be painted by all the class, for example, or a simple house, or a country scene, and then Spot and his friends can be inserted onto the picture.

I Enlarged on a photocopier and then stuck on to card, the pictures can be punched all around with holes and used as sewing cards, or cut into pieces for simple jigsaws, or stuck on to strips of card and used as puppets.

I Stuck on to card, the figures can be used to play snap or for 'matching pair' games (cards are placed face down on the table and each player turns over two at a time, aiming to make a pair, and having to remember where the various cards are). They can also be used as templates to make paperchains, or cut out of black card and then backed with tissue paper for stained glass pictures.



I Children can discuss and write

descriptions of the characters - especially useful for Key Stage 1 pupils working on text level. The pictures can be used to make a game where one child has to describe the character they are

looking at to another child. If the child guesses correctly they win that character. The teacher can also be the 'Describer' to a group or whole class.

Reading Activities

Spot story strips

These are very useful in the pre-reading stage for encouraging children to interpret a story and put it into words, following a sequence of events and 'reading' from left to right. Look at the story strip with the child and discuss what is happening, pointing at the pictures as you go through the story and guiding the child's finger along the bottom of the card. Later, cut the pictures up (sticking the strip on to

card first will make it more durable) and ask the child to put them into the right order. Enlarged on the photocopier the individual pictures can be coloured in and used as a story wall frieze.

The story strips would also be particularly useful for word, sentence and text level work in either class, group or independent focused word work during the Literacy Hour session.

Writing Activities

Matching pairs

This encourages observation, and joining the pairs together practises pencil control.

Join the dots

This encourages pencil control, particularly the zig-zag movement and the picture can be coloured after it has been completed.

Spot at the farm

Finding your way around is a very useful skill! Looking at this simple map can lead to discussion about directions forward, back, left and right. You can make your own map on a large sheet of paper and ask the children to trace their way along the roads with their fingers. Can they find the quickest way from one point to another? What journeys do they make in their daily lives, and by what means of transport? How do they travel to school for example?

Whose balloon?

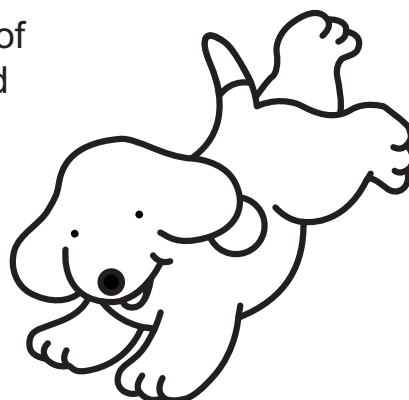
This is also an excellent way to practise pencil control.

Number Work

Cooking with Spot:

Party hat biscuits; Crispy chocolate nests; Individual cup cakes

Very simple recipes that require the minimum of cooking skills but give scope for lots of fun and discussion, plus weighing and measuring practice. What happens to icing sugar when water is added? How does chocolate change when it gets hot? What happens to it when it cools down? This is both a science and number activity.



Helen's garden

A lovely picture to colour, and useful sorting practice. What things belong in the garden?

Count and colour

Practice in identifying written numbers and counting.

Colour by numbers

A fun way to practise counting. You can make it easier for children to remember the colours by crayoning the relevant colour behind each word in the code.

Shapes

Again, it may be helpful to add the appropriate colour to each shape in the key so that the children can see what they have to do. This activity can be extended in lots of ways: going through magazines looking for examples of each particular shape for instance, and making a composite picture of each one. Shape stickers are also useful.

Where's teddy?

A simple game which nevertheless gives lots of counting practice. It will be easier to play if the sheet is enlarged on a photocopier to A3 size. It can then be coloured in, and will last much longer if it is stuck on to card and covered with sticky plastic. Children will probably need some help in interpreting the key to begin with, but will soon get the hang of the symbols. The variety makes the game much more interesting.

Tidy up time

A chance to use very simple mathematical terms - 'bigger than' and 'smaller than' - and to start sorting items into sets. You can expand this game by using the same principle to sort other appropriate things - what belongs to a child and what to a mother, for example - or to begin talking about sets and sub-sets. The pictures can be photocopied onto card, coloured in and cut out. Children can then physically sort out the clothes, matching them to Sam and Spot.

Add and match

A first adding exercise, which shows children what sums are all about - that numbers are actual quantities of things, rather than just abstract concepts. Another idea is to bring in bun tins and put circles with numbers written on them at the bottom of each hollow. Children can then put the right number of dried beans (not red kidney beans!) or beads etc. to match

the number, and can practise counting and adding. Older children can then translate the objects to written numbers and write out sums as a progression from matching objects to numbers.

Spot the difference

Encourages careful observation, and children love finding mistakes! The activity can also be used as a discussion tool.

Early Science Activities

Tom's green letters

It seems like magic as the cress grows in a letter shape - just remember to keep the cotton wool wet. This science activity can spark off lots of discussion about what plants need to grow, what happens if the seeds don't get watered, and how plants make food from water, with the help of sunshine (they usually need soil, but some plants don't have to have this). Planting bulbs or seeds in soil is the next step.

What to take outside

Again, sorting practice and a good starting point for discussions about the weather and the changing seasons. Which materials keep us warm or dry? Why must we be careful in the sun? How many ways can we think of to keep ourselves warm? What are the various types of clothing made from? Children can draw pictures of Spot wearing appropriate clothing in different weather.

Spot's weather calendar

Children will enjoy having an individual weather calendar to take home, or you could make one large one for the classroom (enlarged on a photocopier). Help the children colour in the individual weather strips, stick them on to card and cut them out. Ask the children to colour the large picture, then stick it on to card and cut down the dotted lines. The appropriate weather strip can then be threaded through each day.

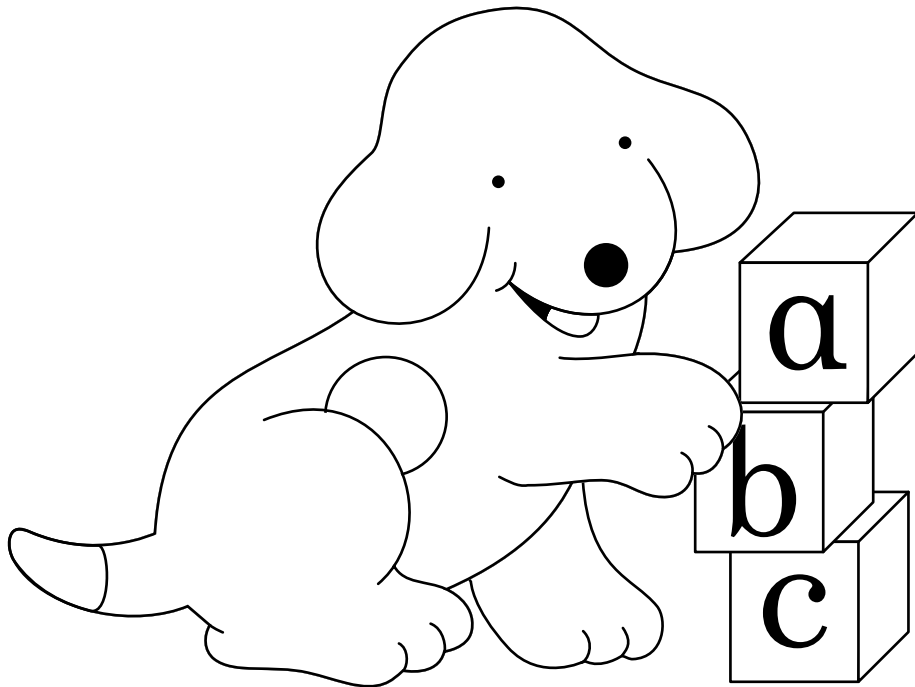
You can also adapt the calendar to show the days of the week as well as the weather.

Spot's day

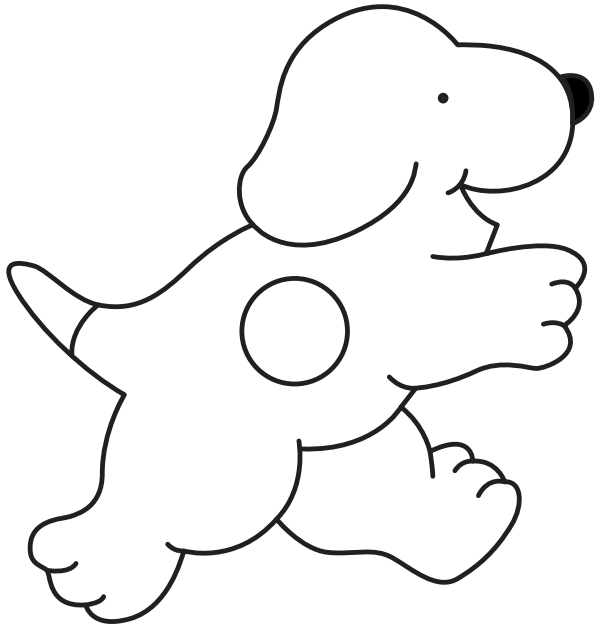
This activity lends itself to lots of extensions. You can make an individual time diary with each child, for example, drawing in the clock yourself and letting the child add pictures of his/her day. Use this in group or independent work sessions in the daily mathematics lessons or to consolidate work on telling the time.

Spot's clock

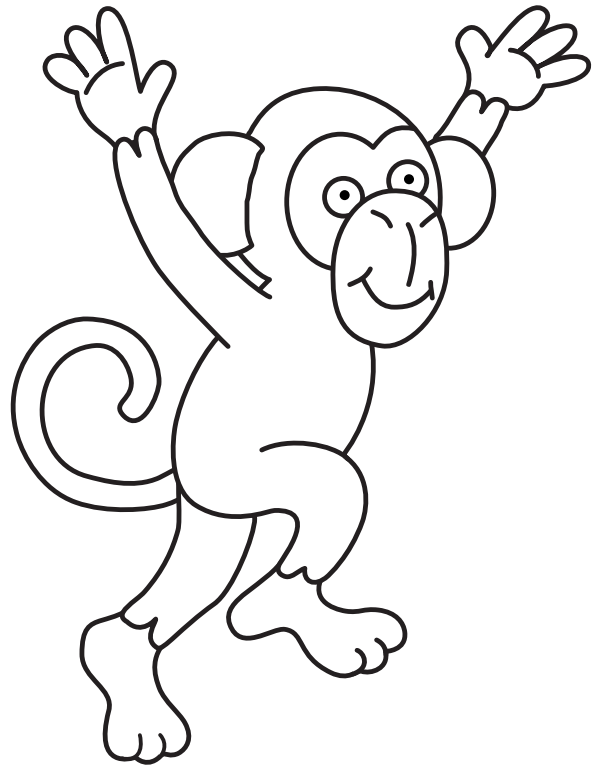
You can enlarge this for the classroom by copying it on to a sheet of A3 paper, or keep it the same size as an individual clock for each child. Let the children colour in the clock face, and the hands, then stick the sheet on to card and cut out. Assemble the clock with a paper fastener through the centre.



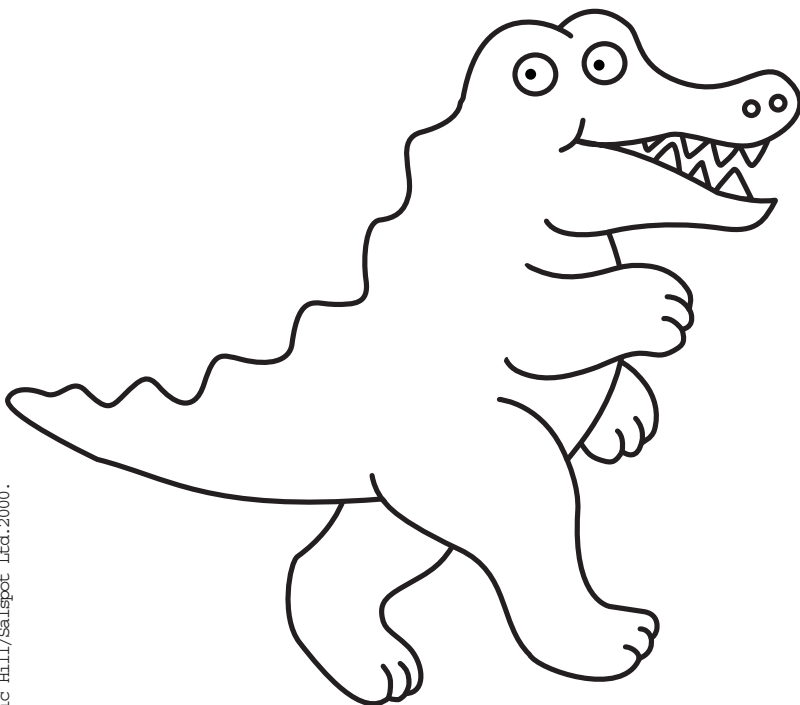
Spot and his friends



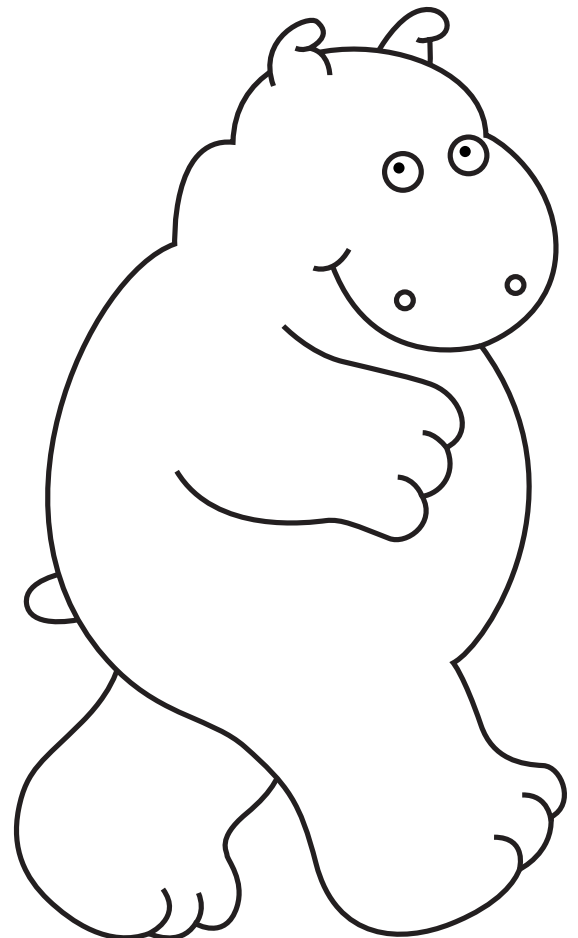
Spot



Steve



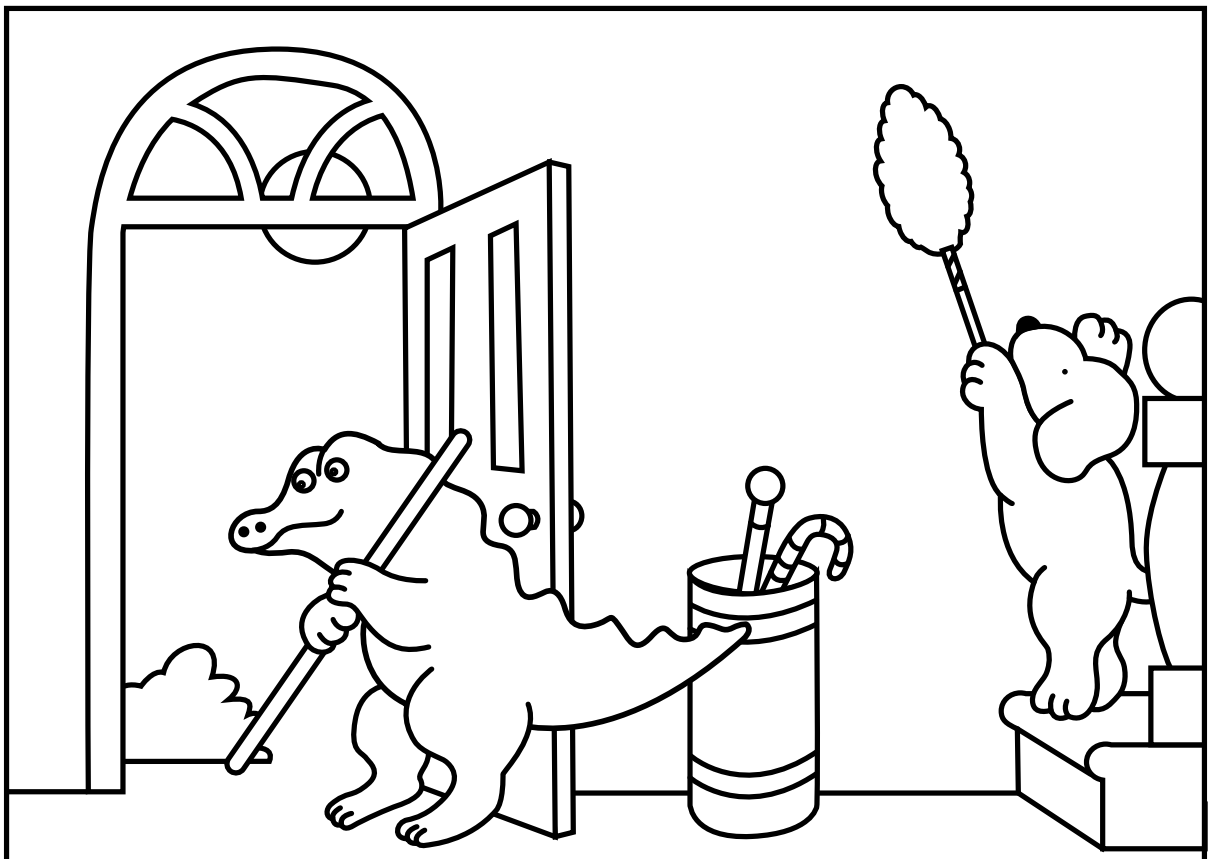
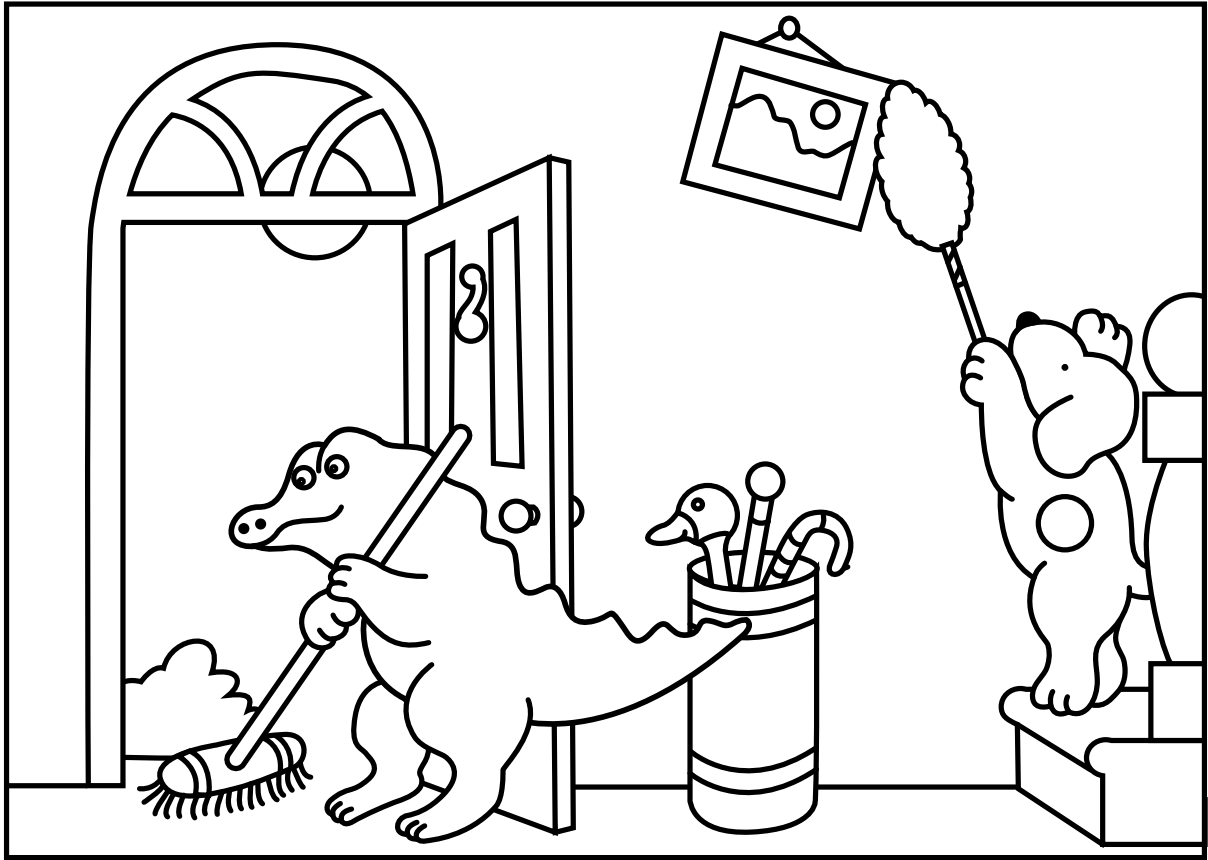
Tom



Helen

Spot the difference

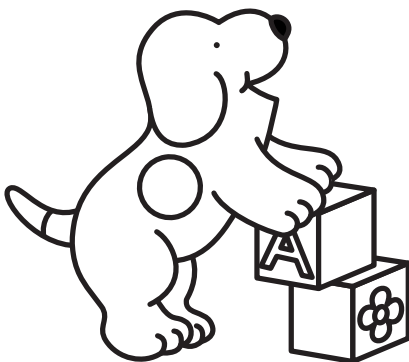
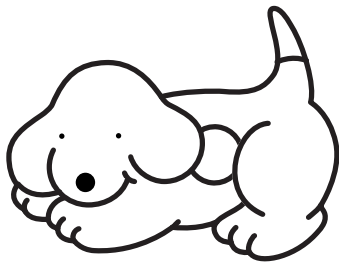
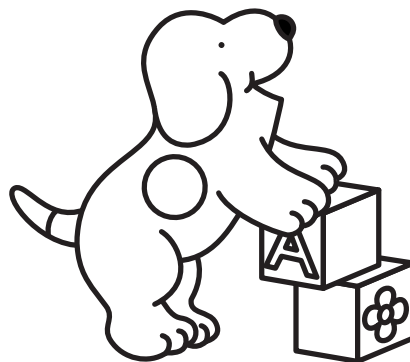
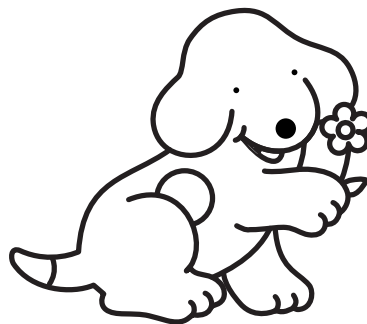
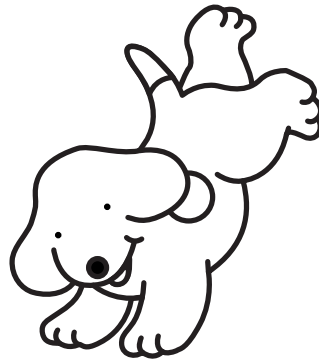
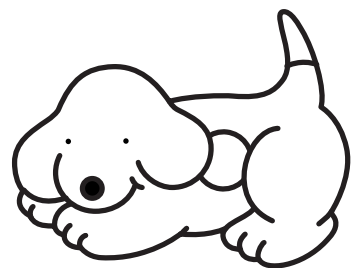
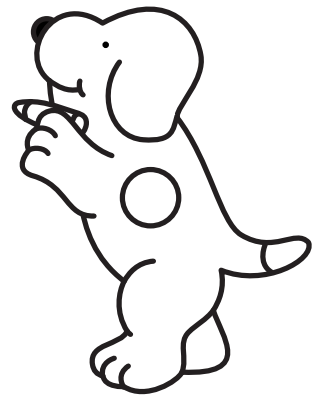
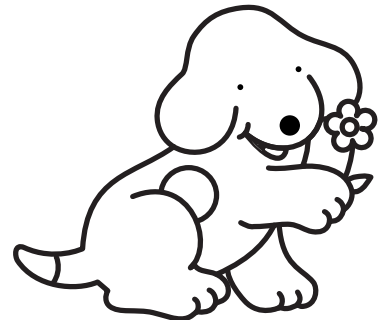
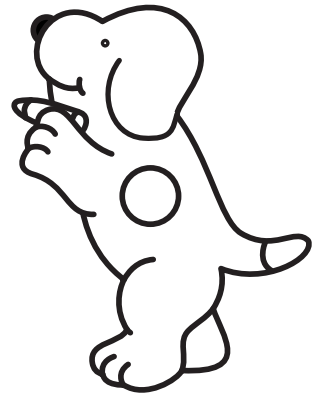
Can you spot 5 things that are missing in the picture below? Draw a circle on the picture where they should be.



Matching pairs

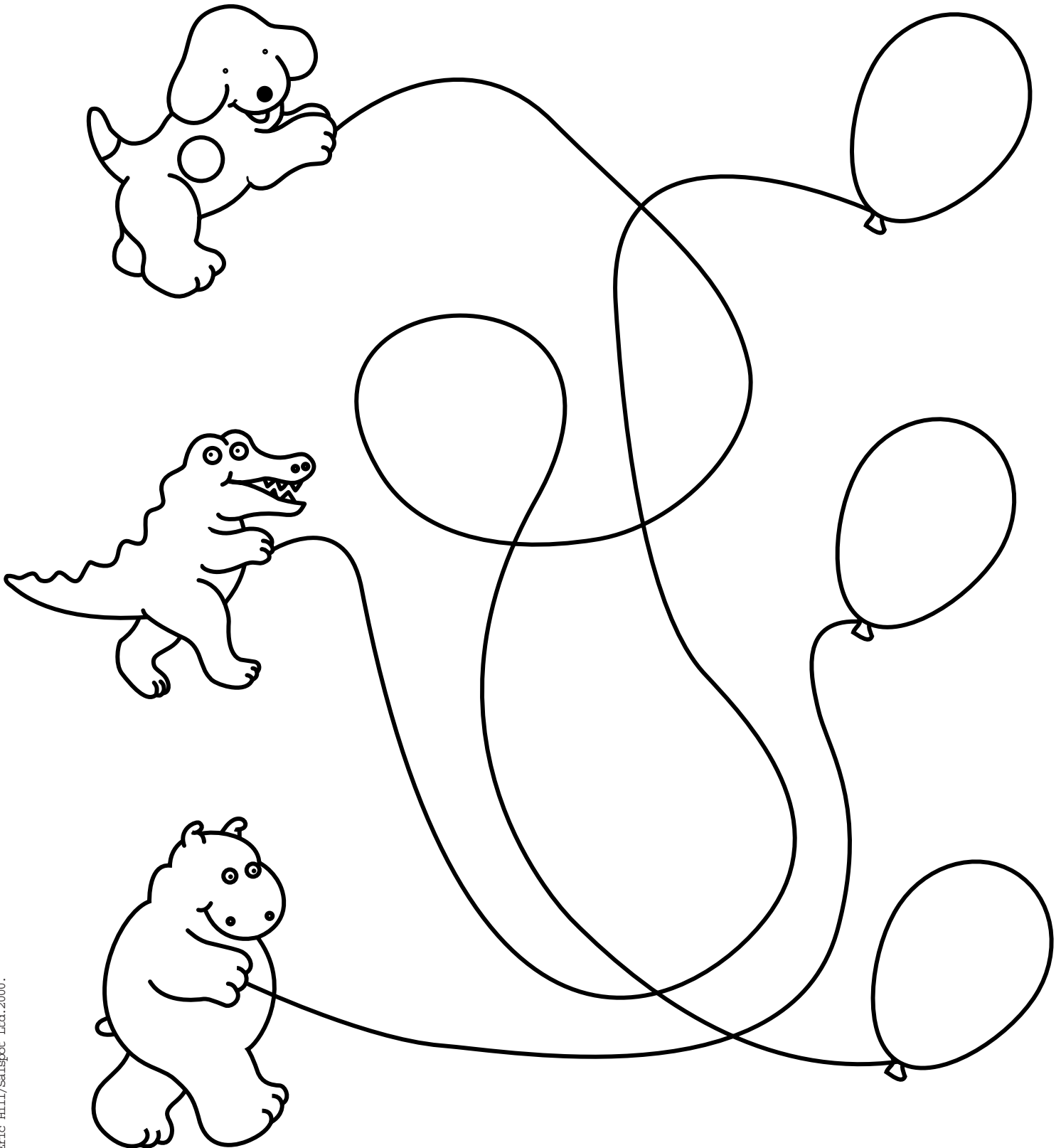
Spot is doing lots of different things, find the pairs which are the same.

Draw a line with your pencil to join them up.

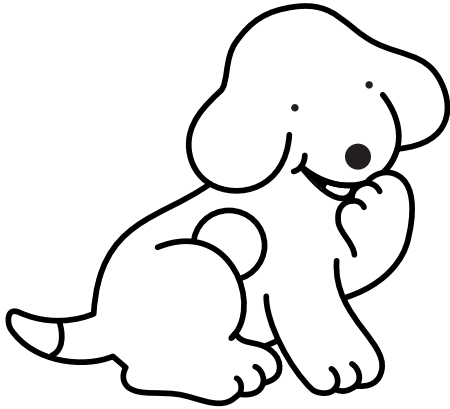


Whose balloon?

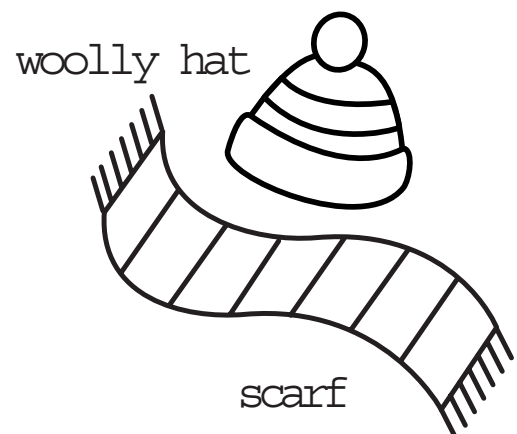
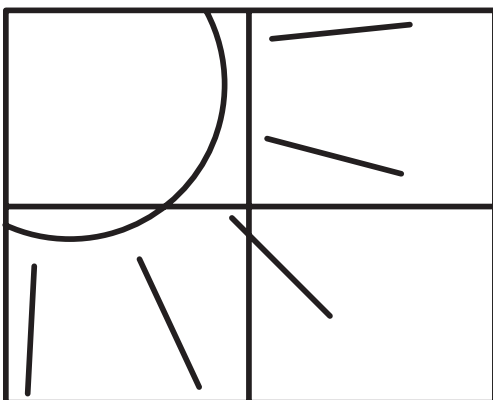
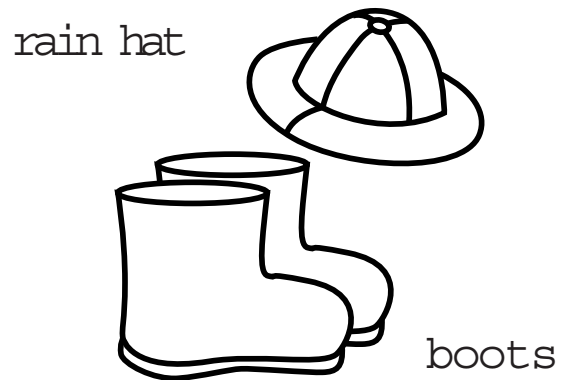
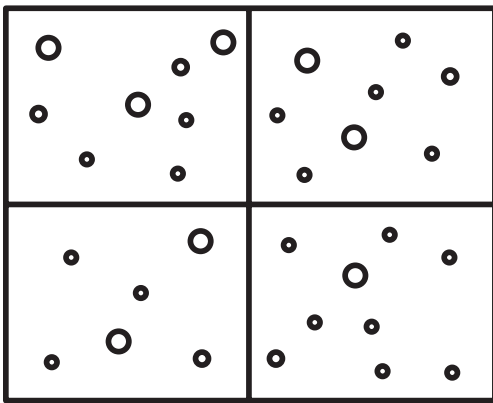
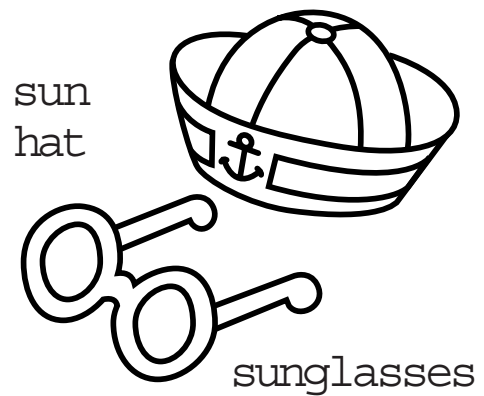
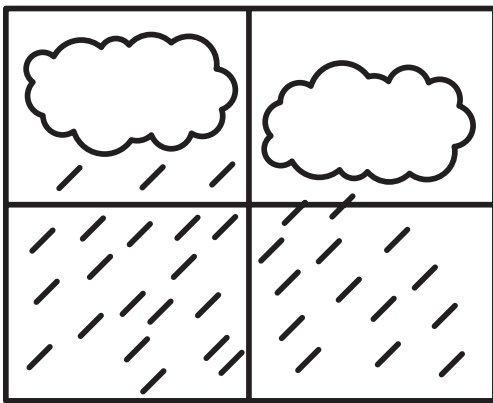
Spot and his friends have tangled their balloons. With your pencil can you help them follow the balloon strings to find which is whose and then colour them in?



What to take outside



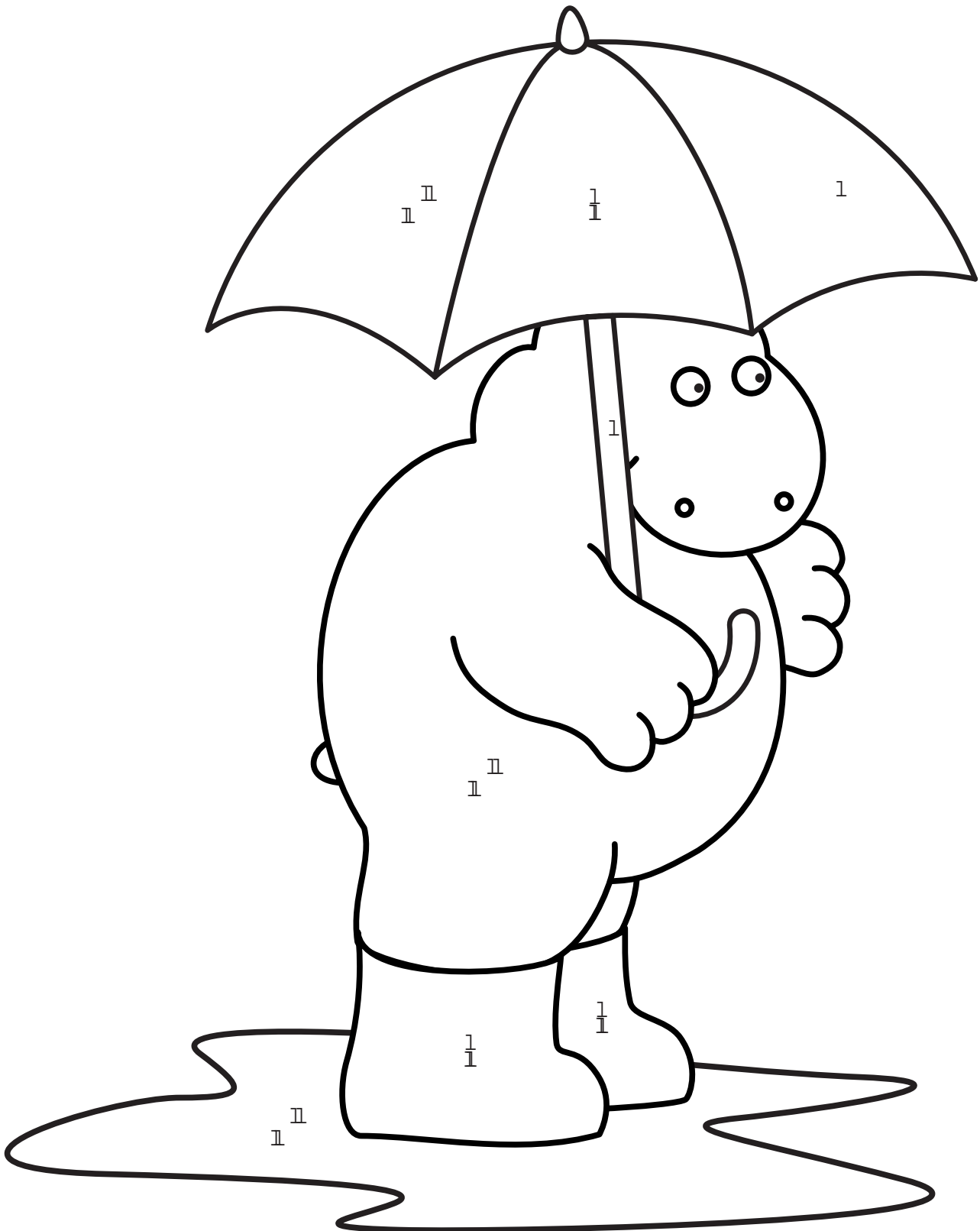
Spot is not sure what to wear outside. Draw a line from the things he might need in each type of weather, to the right picture.



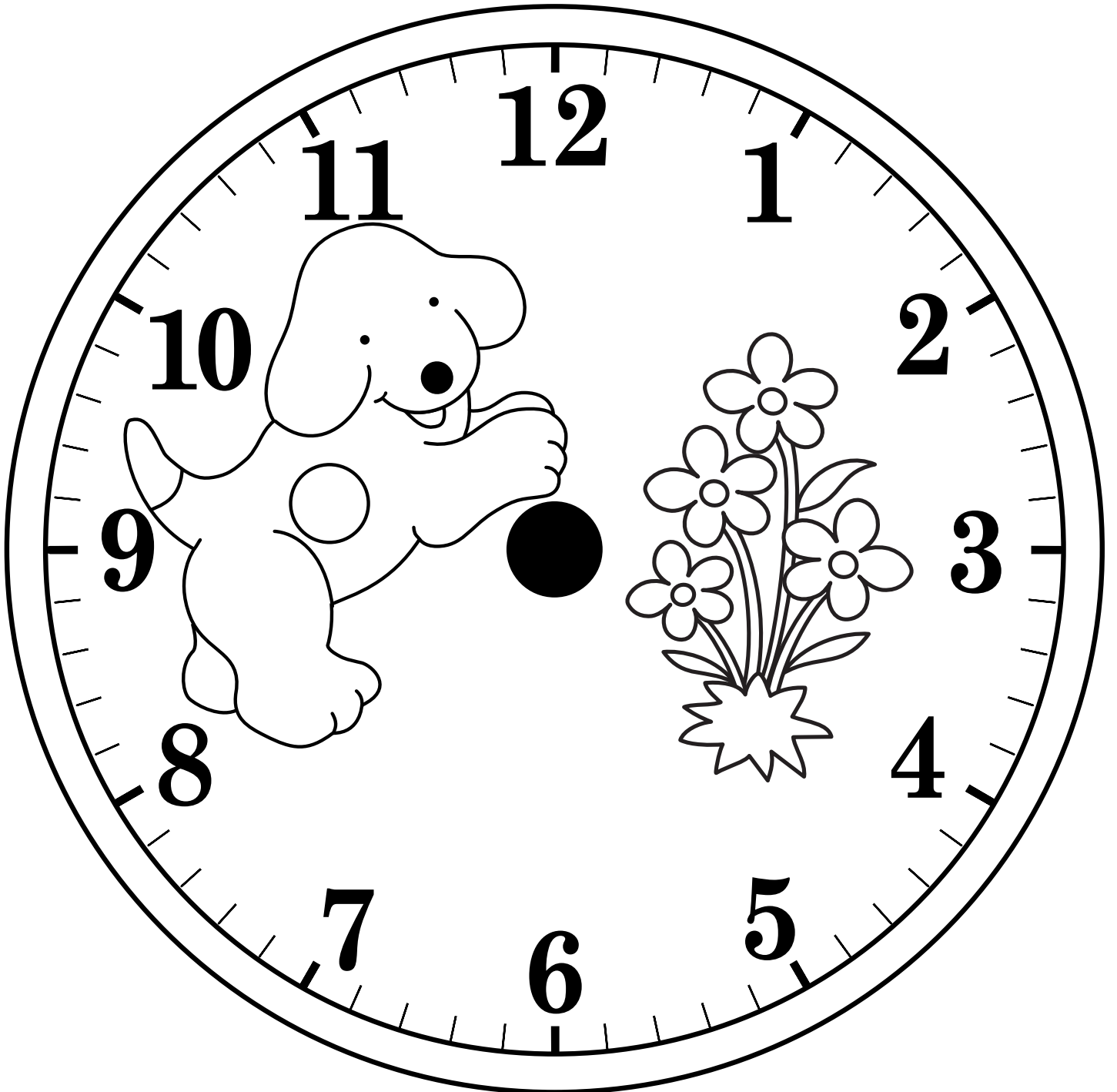
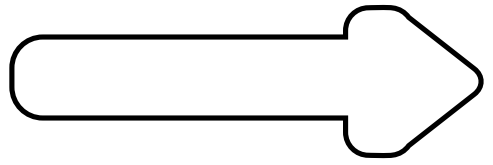
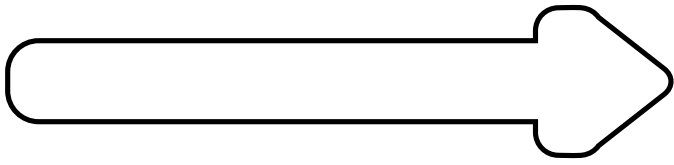
Colour by numbers

Helen is caught in the rain. Colour her in using the code.

I = Red I₁ = Yellow II = Green II_# = Blue



Spot's clock



Cooking with Spot

Party hat biscuits

You will need:

1 icing sugar and water

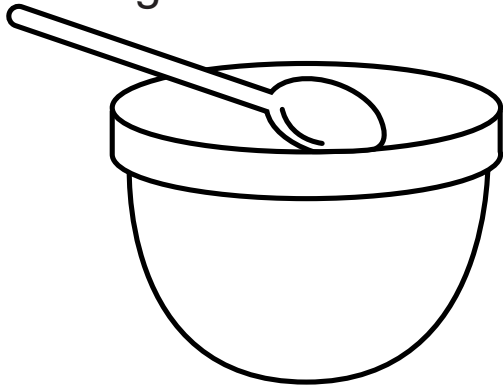
1 round biscuits –
plain or chocolate

1 marshmallows or chocolate
marshmallow teacakes

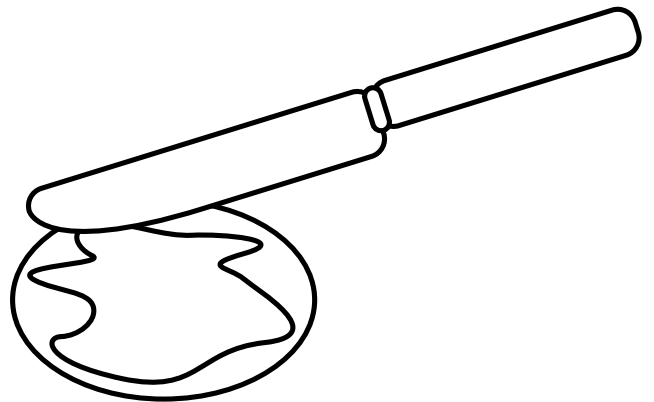
1 little sweets



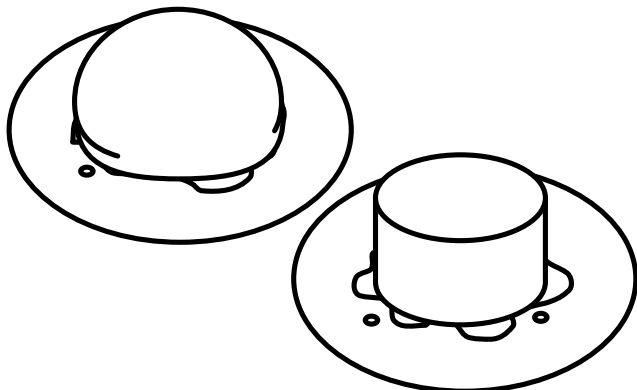
1. Mix icing sugar with a little water to make quite thick icing



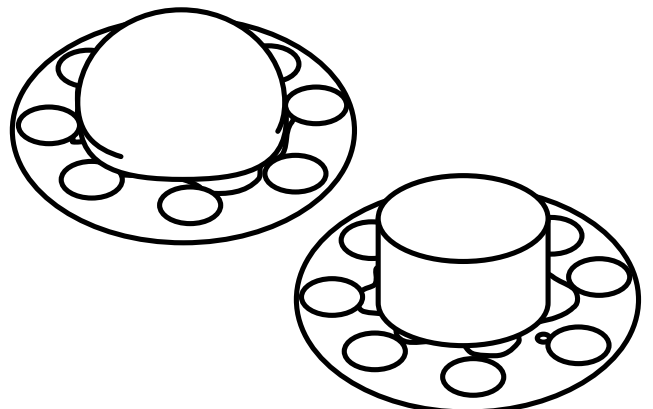
2. Spread a little on each biscuit



3. Press the teacakes or marshmallows into the icing 'glue'



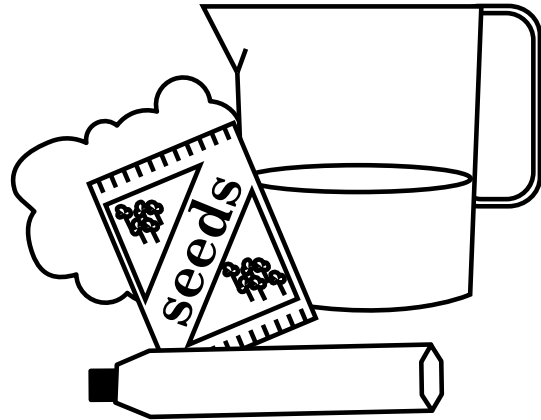
4. Stick on little sweets with more icing glue to make beautiful hats



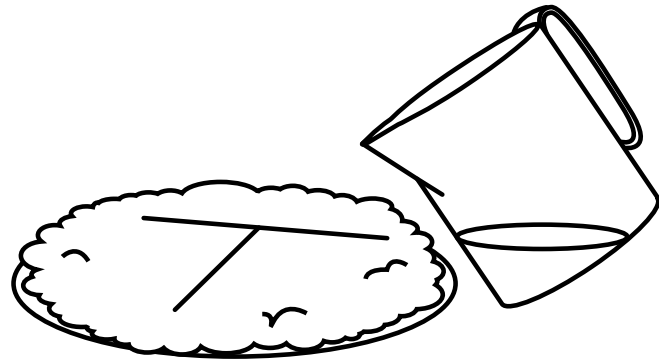
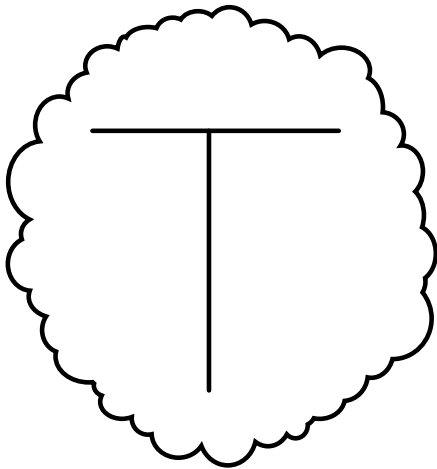
Tom's green letters

You will need:

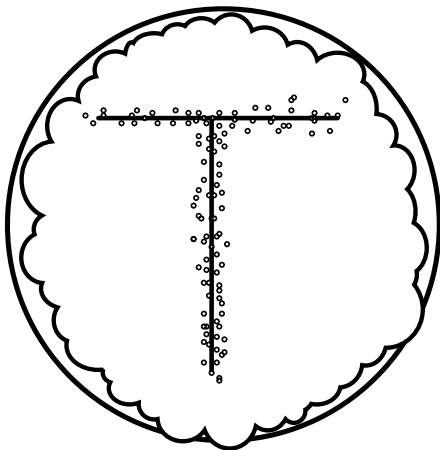
- | cotton wool
- | a marker pen
- | a plate
- | mustard and cress seeds
- | water



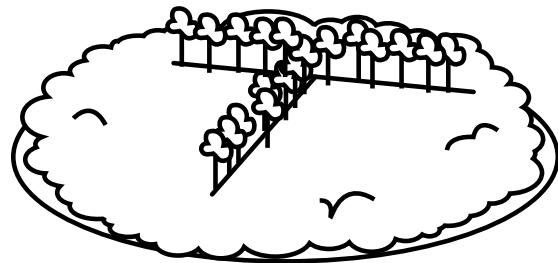
1. Ask a grown up to help you draw the first letter of your name on the cotton wool. It must be quite big.



2. Put the cotton wool on the plate and pour some water on it.



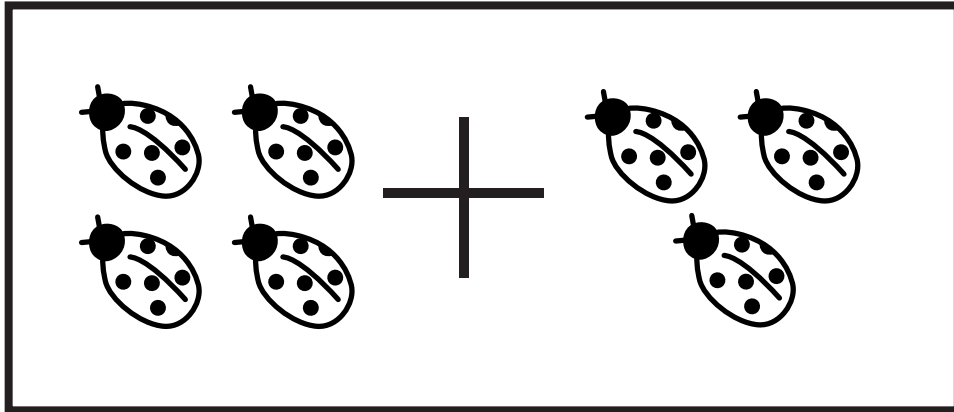
3. Spread the seeds thickly on to the outline of the letter.



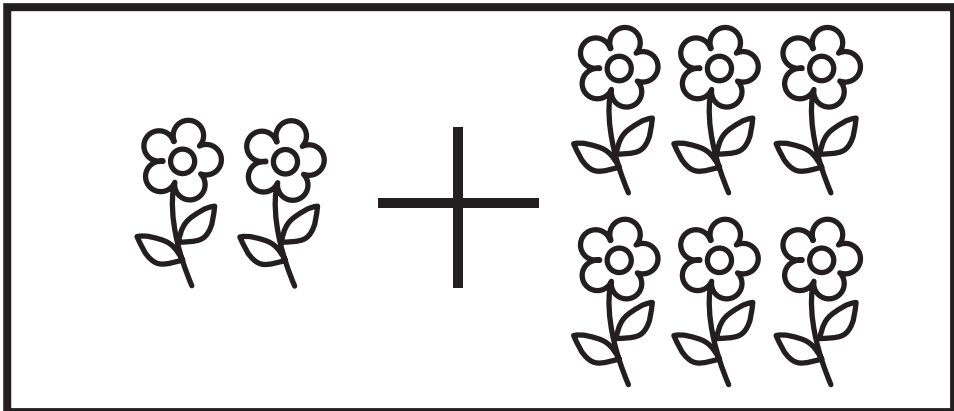
4. Make sure the cotton wool stays wet and watch the cress grow into your letter.

Add and match

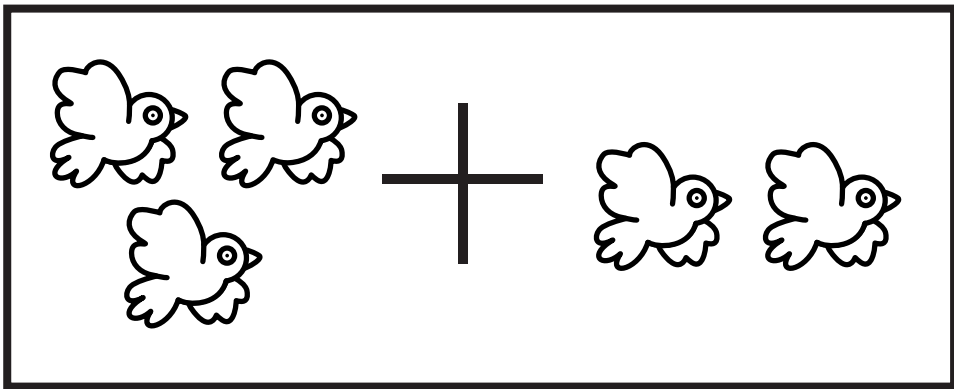
Can you help Spot count up all the items in each box? Draw a line to the right number.



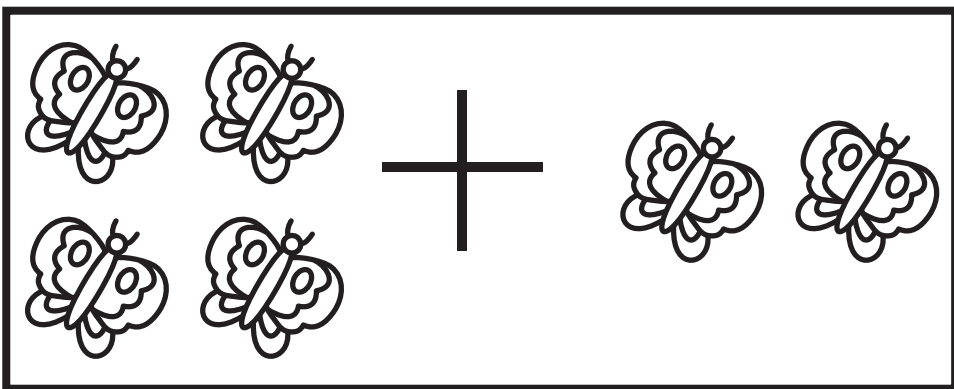
8



6

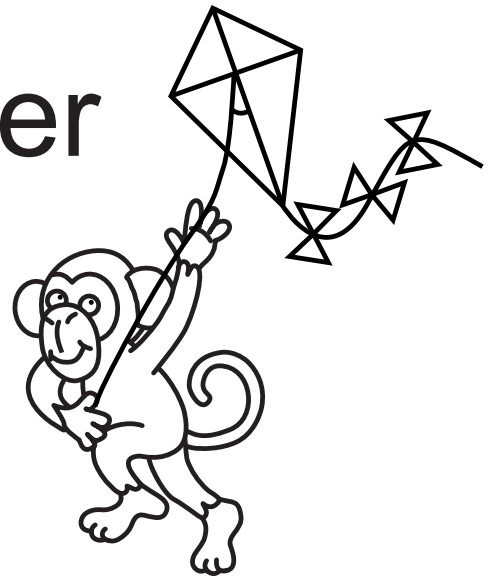


7



5

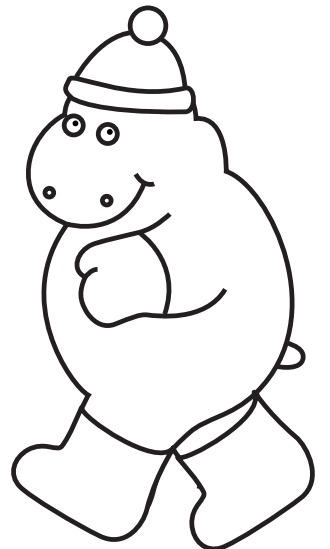
Spot's weather calendar



It is

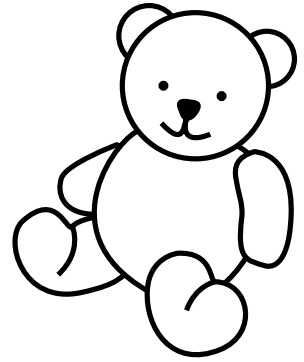


today

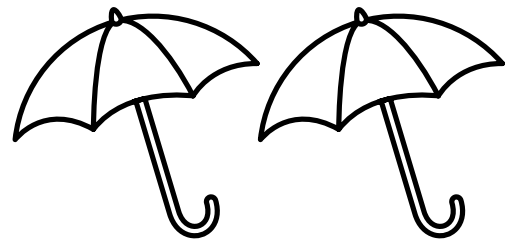


Count and colour

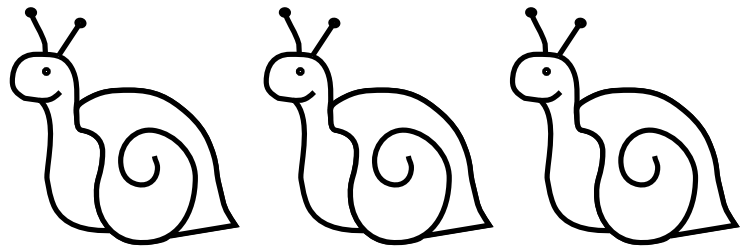
1



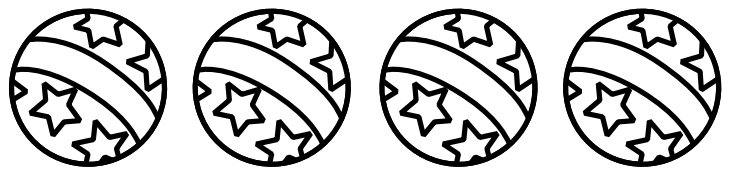
2



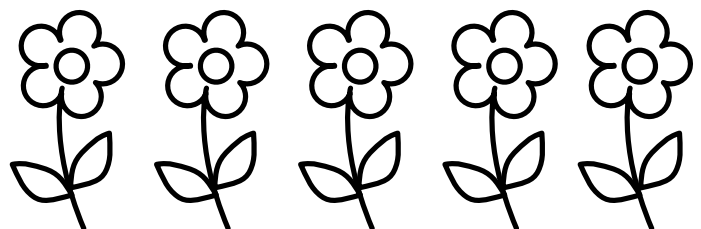
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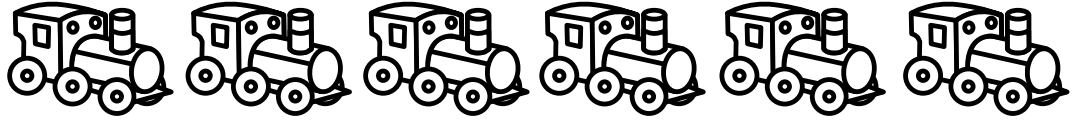
4



5



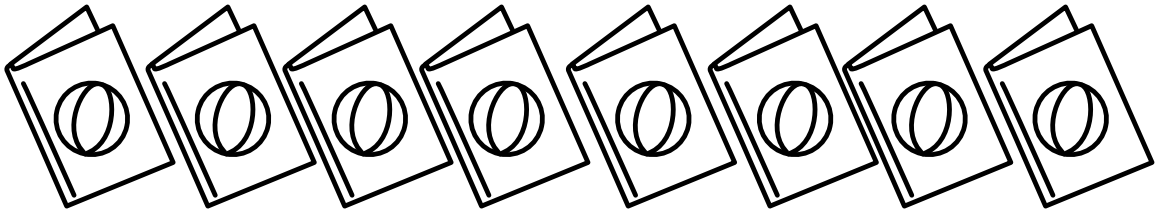
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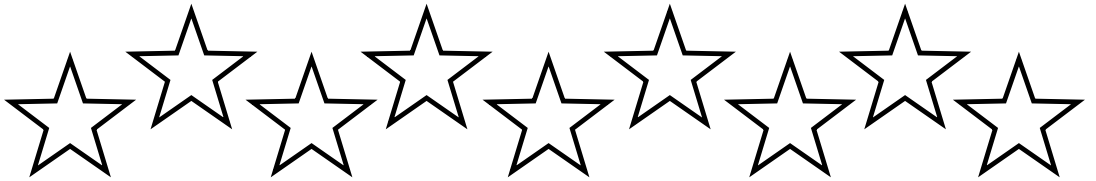
7



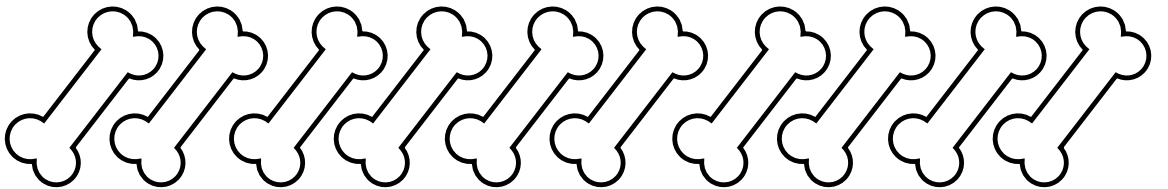
8



9



10



Where's teddy?

Help Spot reach his teddy bear. You will need a dice and a counter for each player. When you land on a picture, look at the key to see how to move.

The winner is the first to reach the teddy bear.



Move back
1 space



Move forward
2 spaces



Move
forward
1 space



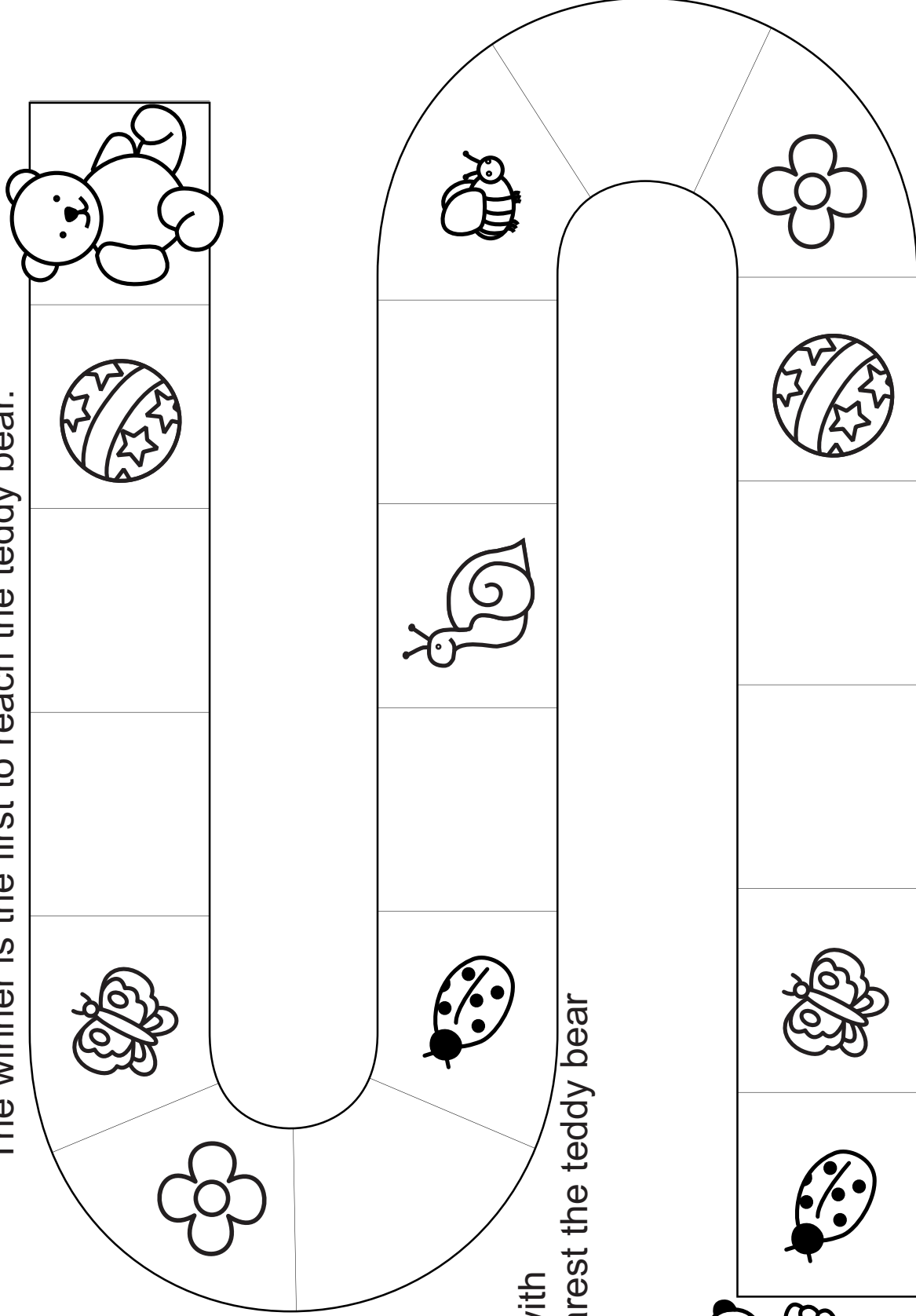
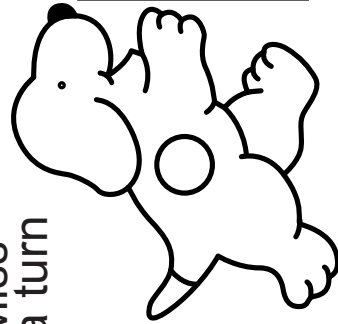
Move back
2 spaces



Swap places with
the person nearest the teddy bear

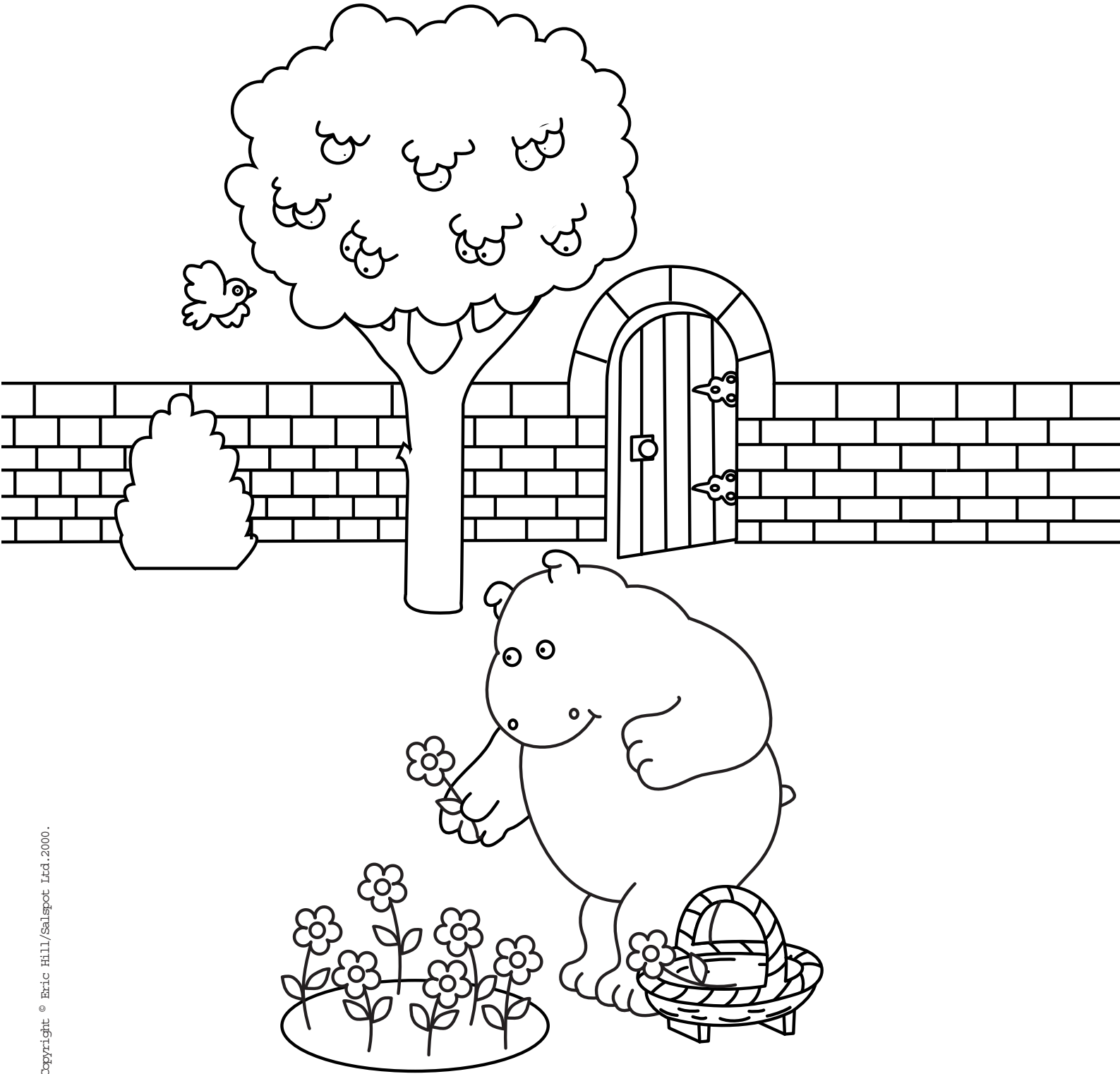


Miss
a turn

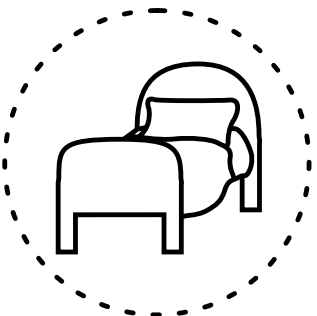
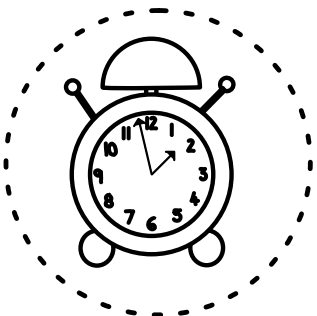
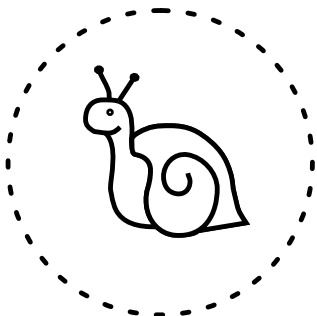


Helen's garden

Colour in the things that belong in Helen's garden. Cut them out and stick them on the big picture.



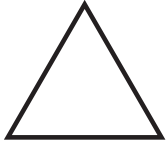
Copyright © Eric Hill/Salspot Ltd. 2000.



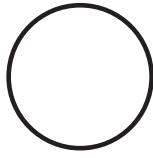
Shapes

See how many shapes you can find in this picture.

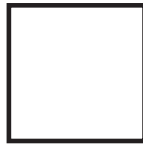
Colour them in like this:



red
triangle



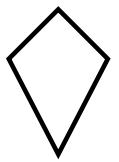
yellow
circle



green
square



blue
rectangle

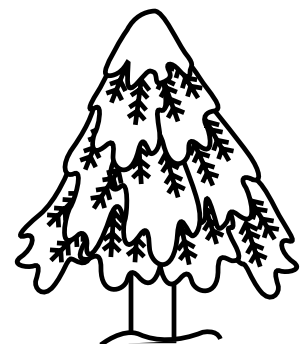
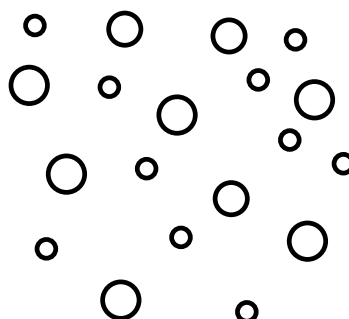
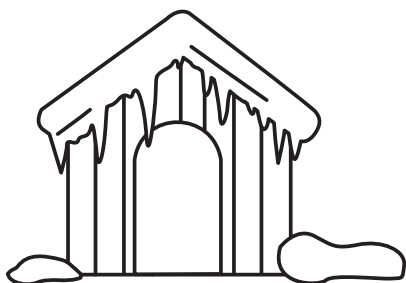
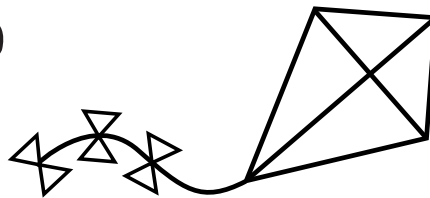
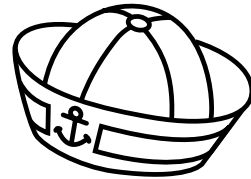
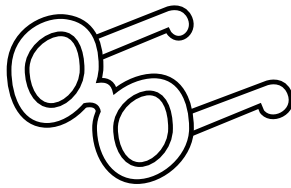
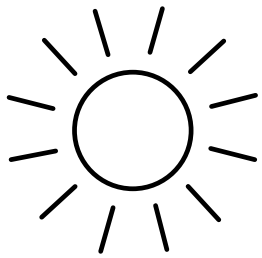


orange
kite



Spot's weather calendar

Colour in these pictures, then ask a grown-up to help you stick them on to card and cut them out. Colour in the big weather calendar picture and a grown-up will help you put the calendar together.

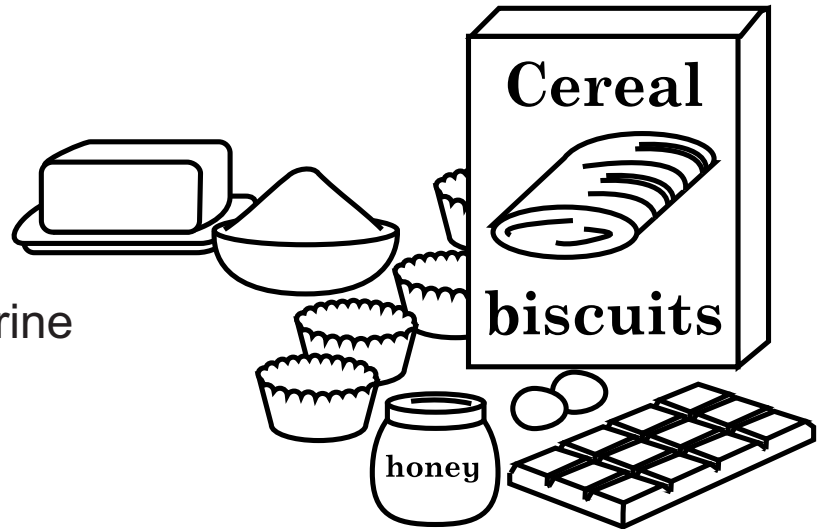


Cooking with Spot

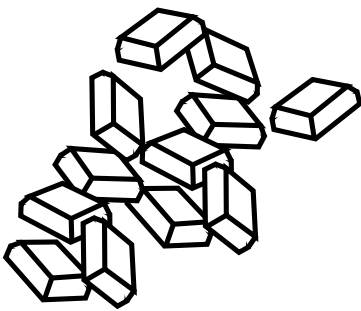
Crispy chocolate nests

You will need:

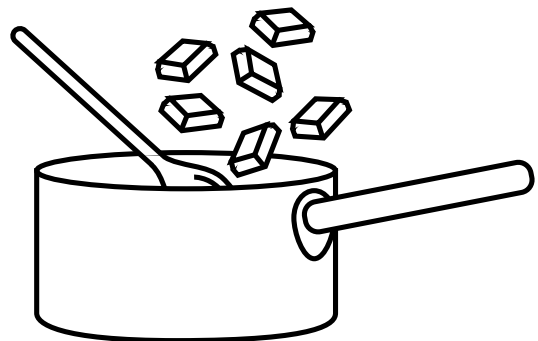
- | 1 bar of chocolate
- | 2 tablespoons of honey
- | 1 tablespoon of sugar
- | 1 tablespoon of soft margarine or butter
- | 6 wheaty cereal biscuits
- | 12 paper cases
- | chocolate or sugar-covered eggs to decorate



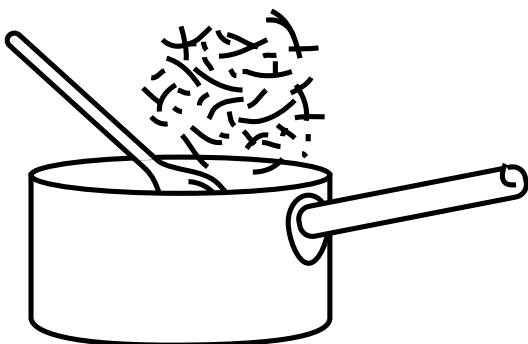
1. Break the chocolate into pieces.



2. Put the chocolate, honey, sugar and margarine or butter in a saucepan. Ask an adult to help you heat it gently stirring it now and then.



3. Break up the cereal with your fingers and stir it into the mixture.



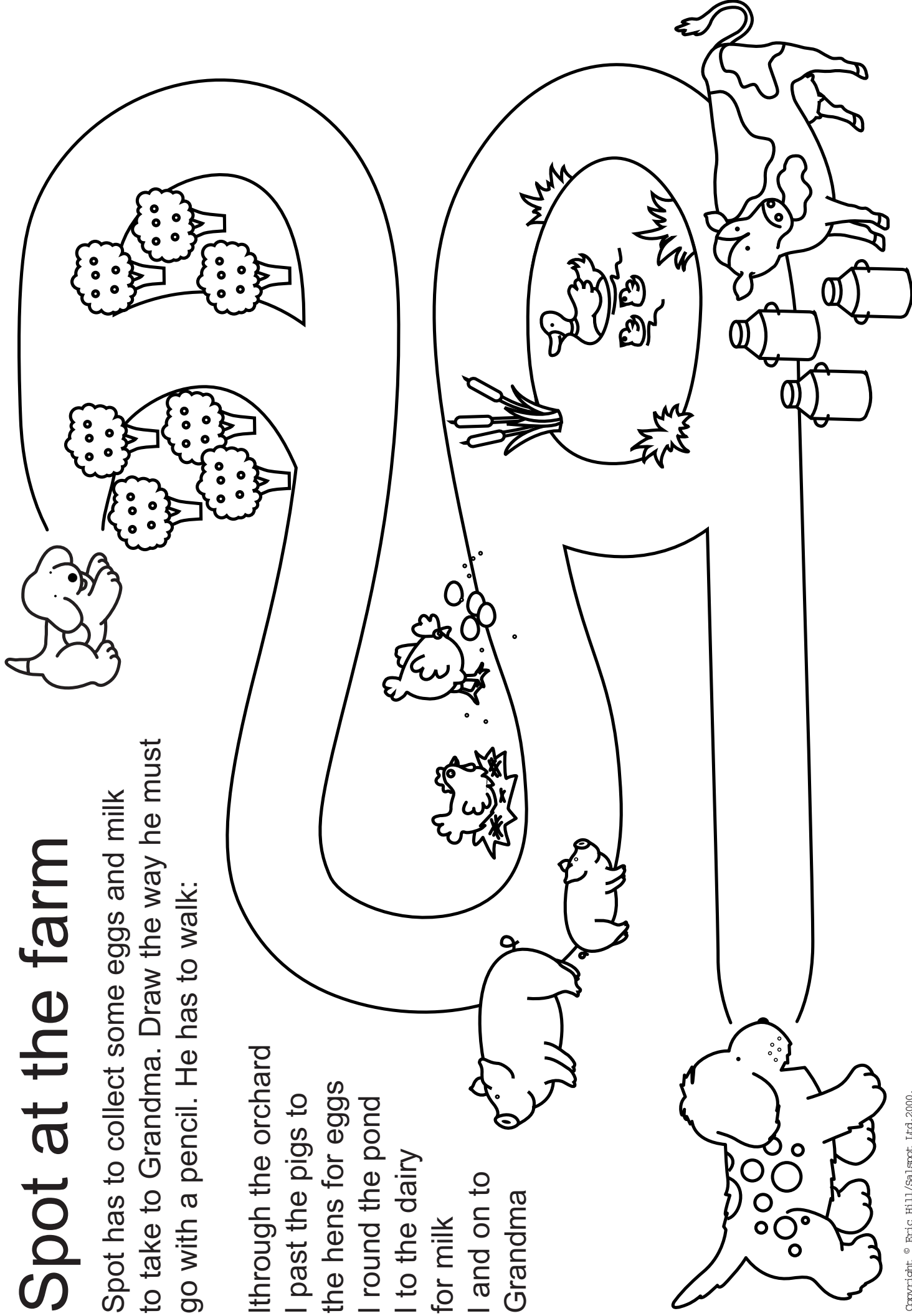
4. Put a big spoonful of the mixture into each paper case and make a little hollow in each one. Add 2 or 3 little eggs and leave to set



Spot at the farm

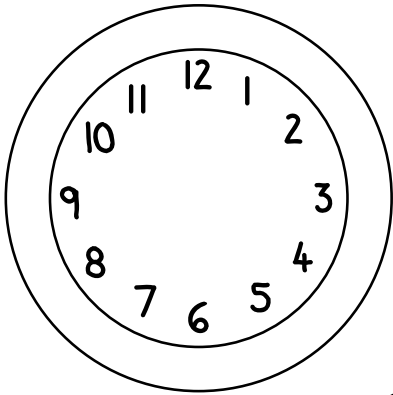
Spot has to collect some eggs and milk to take to Grandma. Draw the way he must go with a pencil. He has to walk:

I through the orchard
I past the pigs to
the hens for eggs
I round the pond
I to the dairy
for milk
I and on to
Grandma

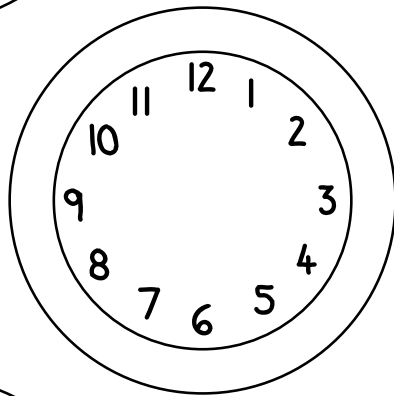
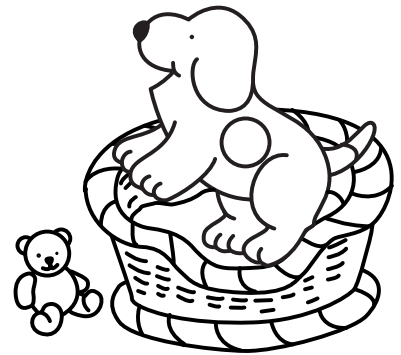


Spot's day

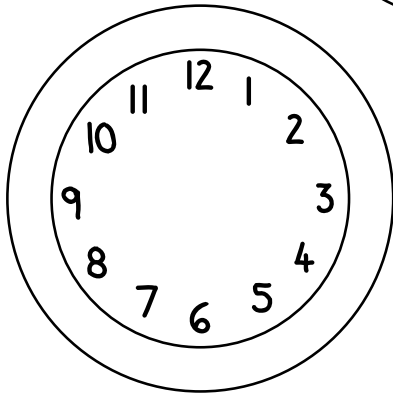
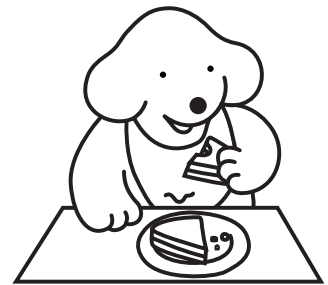
Can you draw in the clock hands to show how Spot spends his day?



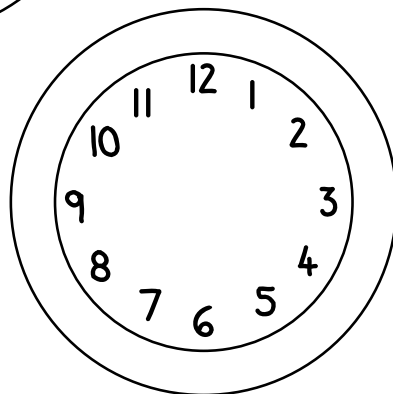
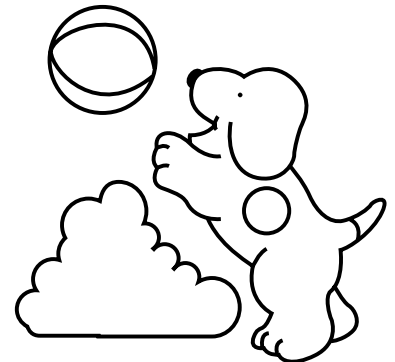
8 o'clock



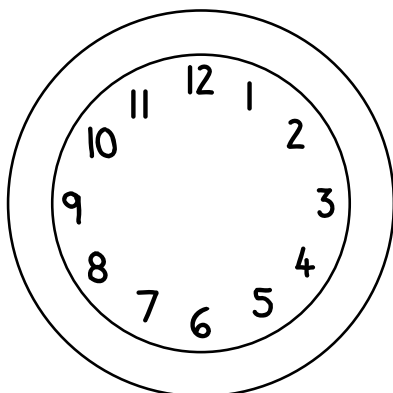
12 o'clock



3 o'clock



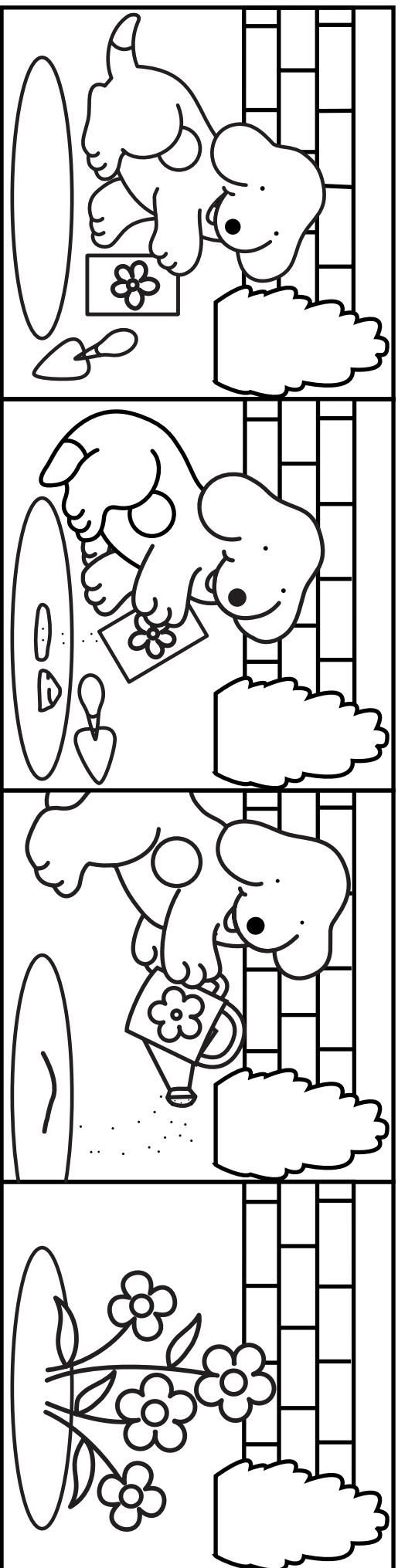
5 o'clock



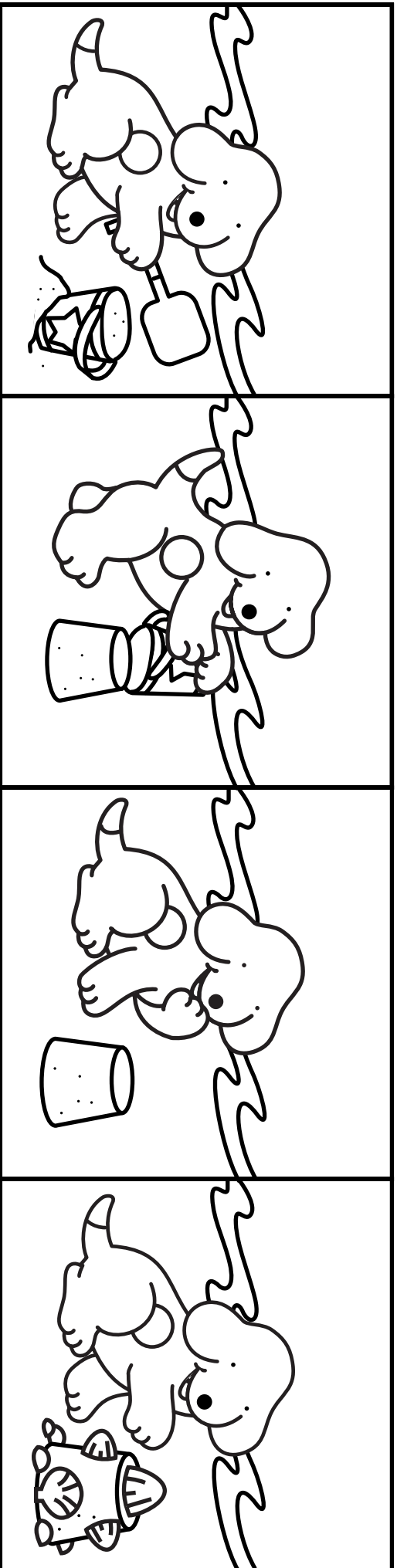
7 o'clock



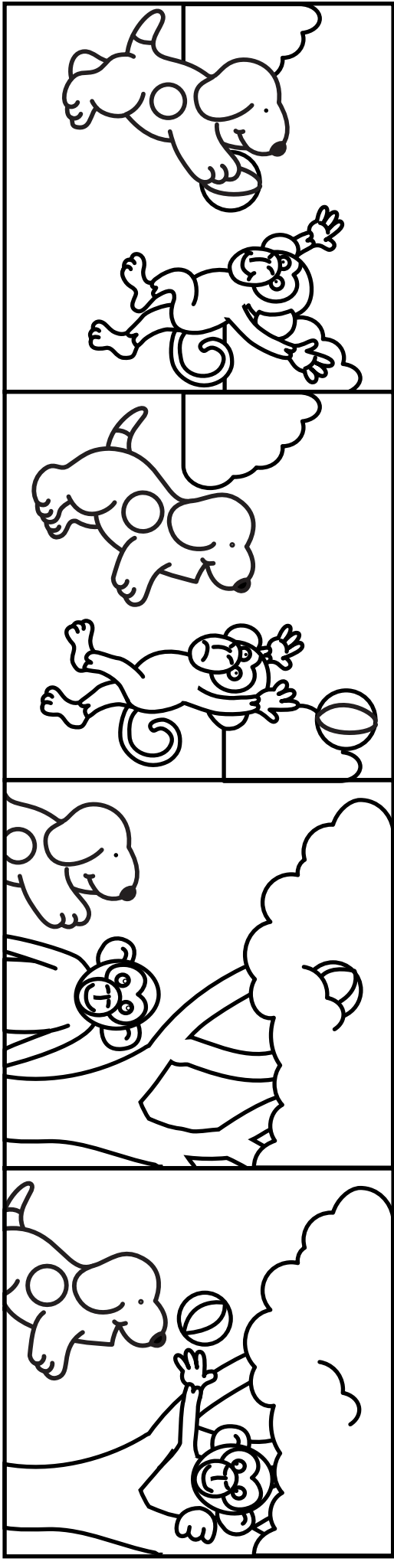
Spot's garden



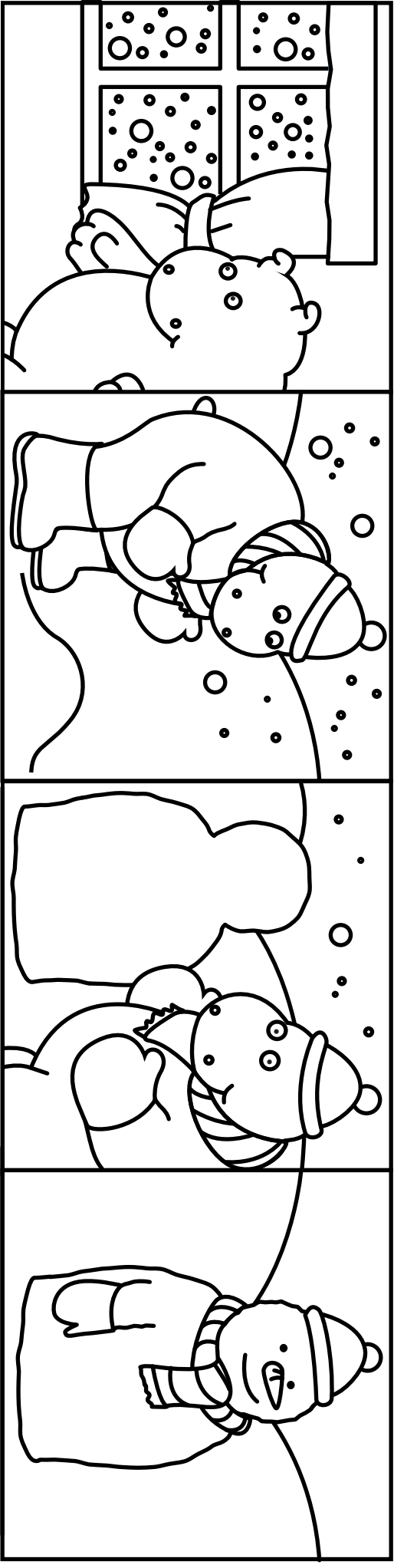
Spot at the beach



Spot's ball



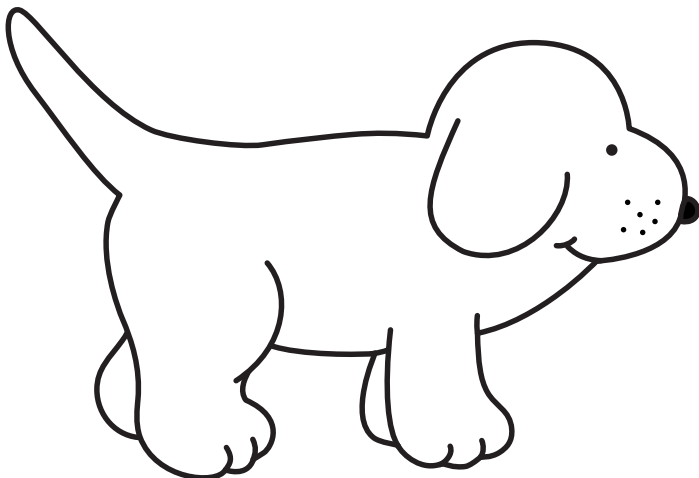
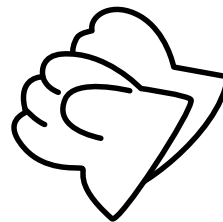
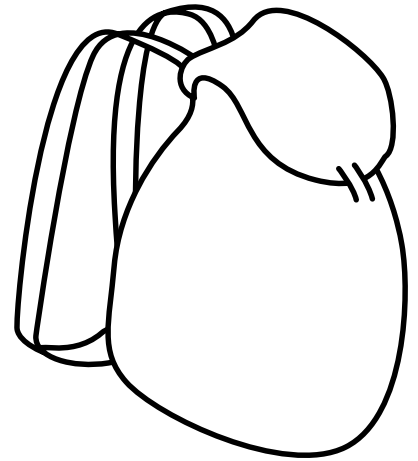
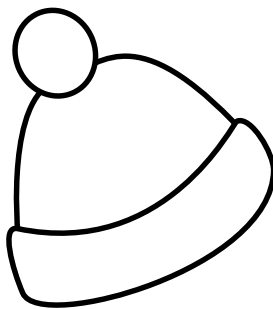
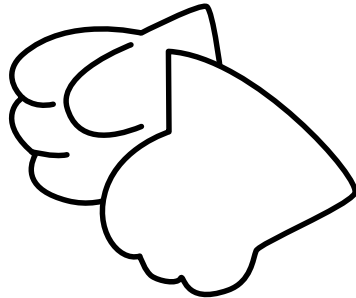
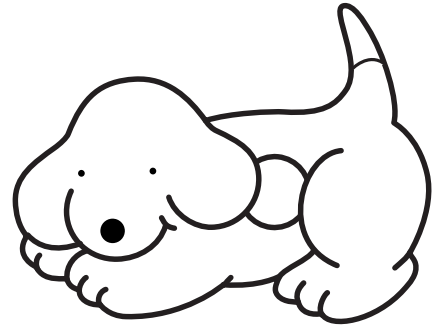
Helen's snowman



Tidy up time

Sam is bigger than Spot.
Spot and Sam's things are all mud-
dled up.

By drawing a line with your
pencil, can you find which things
belong to Spot and which things
belong to Sam?

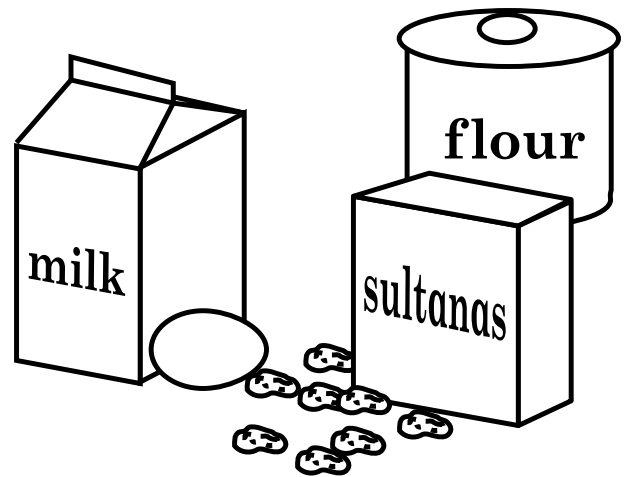


Cooking with Spot

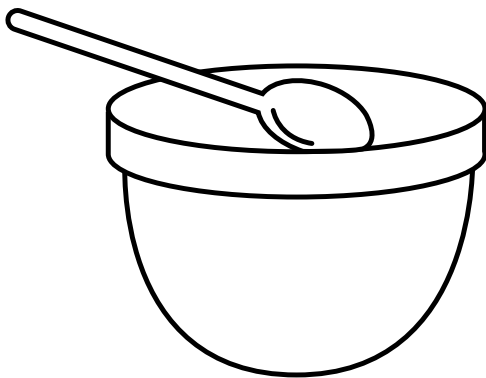
Individual cupcakes

You will need:

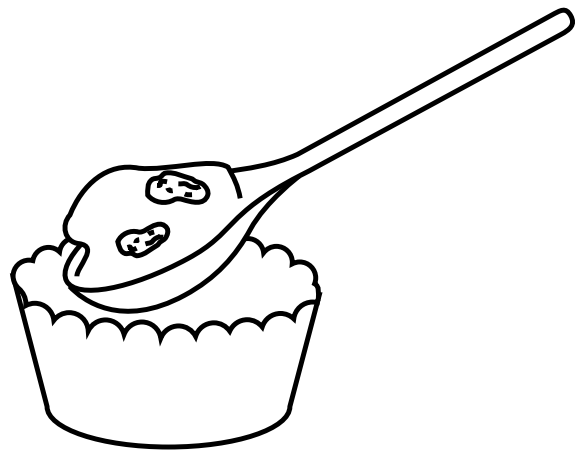
- | 1 heaped tablespoon of self-raising flour
- | 1 teaspoon of margarine
- | 2 teaspoons of sugar
- | 3 teaspoons of sultanas | 2 tablespoons of milk/egg mixture (1 egg to half a pint of milk)



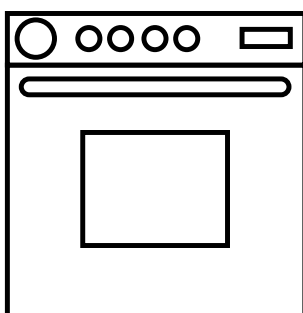
1. Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl.



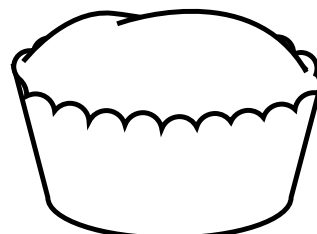
2. Put all of the mixture into a paper cake case.



3. Ask an adult to help you put it in a moderate oven. Then cook it for 15 minutes.



4. Then you can decorate your cake however you want.



Join the dots

