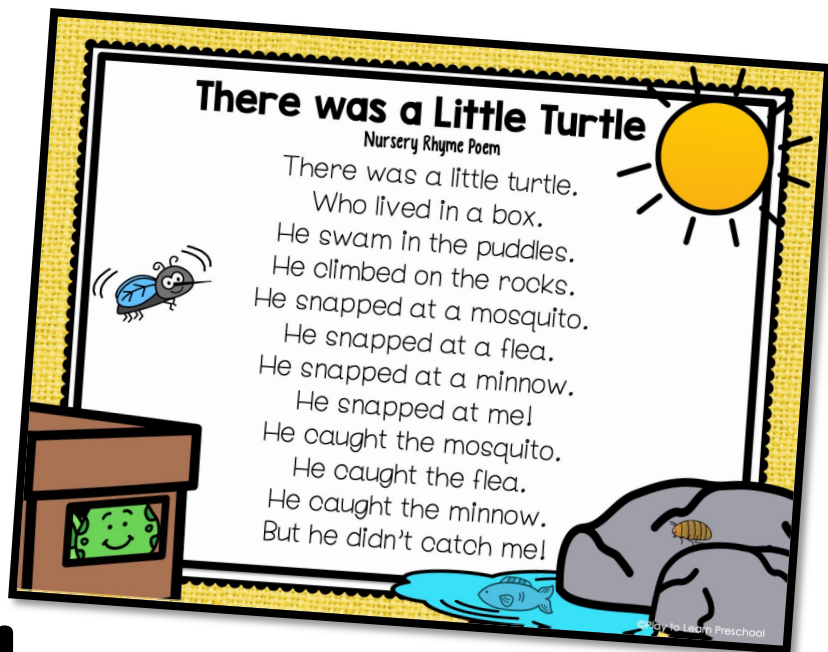


# There was a Little Turtle

Circle Time  
Mini-Unit  
for Preschoolers



# Circle Time Lessons & Centers

## Unit overview

### Day 1 There Was a Little Turtle

Introduce the nursery rhyme:

#### There Was a Little Turtle

Recite the nursery rhyme. Use the picture cards to show what's next.

### Day 2 Observation & Life Science

Investigate turtles. Look at the turtle pictures and discuss turtles.

### Day 3 Label a Picture

Label the parts of a turtle.

### Day 4 Action Dice Game

Roll the dice and act out the motion.

### Center Chip Clip Poem

Count down from 5 as the turtles leave the rock.

### Bonus Take Home Mini Book

Foldable emergent reader book.

**There Was a Little Turtle** Day 1 lesson plans  
Nursery Rhyme

A nursery rhyme is a traditional rhyming poem or song. Teaching nursery rhymes helps young children to develop auditory skills and helps with speech development.

**Objectives:**

- The students will develop listening and speaking skills by reciting a poem.

**Activities:**

- Read the poem to the students and invite the children to join you in singing it again.
- Show the coordinating prop card with each line.
- Hide the prop card when the turtle "turtles" back! Use thumbs to point to "me".

**There Was a Little Turtle** Day 2 lesson plans  
Observation and Life Science

Introducing life science and science vocabulary to young children improves their verbal skills and sparks their curiosity.

**Objectives:**

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.
- The students will draw and initiate the act of writing.

**Activities:**

- Look at the pictures of the turtles and engage in discussion questions. "Have you ever seen a turtle? How did you feel about the shell? Help the turtles and discuss how to live to have a shell friend? Students not to their outside, each student. Students turtles. The words can if necessary.

**There Was a Little Turtle** Day 3 lesson plans  
Label a Picture

Through daily experiences with reading and writing, young children learn that print conveys meaning and accompanying images or illustrations help them comprehend print.

**Objectives:**

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.

**Activities:**

- Point out the different parts of a turtle.
- Label the picture of the turtle.
- After labeling the turtle, have the students point to the part of their body that matches the labels (tail - rear-end, shell - back).

**There Was a Little Turtle** Day 4 lesson plans  
Action Dice Game

Practicing active listening develops communication and problem-solving skills. Incorporate these with a fun movement activity.

**Objectives:**

- The students will follow oral directions.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills (running, jumping, hopping, etc.)

**Activities:**

- Show the students each side of the die and practice the movements.

**There Was a Little Turtle** Day 5 lesson plans  
Chip Clip Poem

Math skills are the foundation for logic and critical thinking. Number sense is the first step in math awareness. Counting, addition, and subtraction help children understand the meaning of numbers.

**Objectives:**

- The students will identify numbers.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.

**Activities:**

- Cut out the turtles and attach to clothes pins. Cut out the rock and box. Not and arrange as desired. Alternatively use a real box to drop the chips into. If no real box is available, hide the turtle chips under the box cards.
- Recite the chip clip poem, "Turtles on the Rock." Remove a chip from the rock as the poem counts down.

**Take-Home Mini Books**  
Foldable Emergent Readers

- Print a poem for each child.
- Fold the page into fourths - landscape first, then portrait. (You might glue the page together for younger children.)
- Invite students to point to the words and recite the memorized poem.

# There Was a Little Turtle

## Nursery Rhyme

Day 1  
Lesson  
Plans

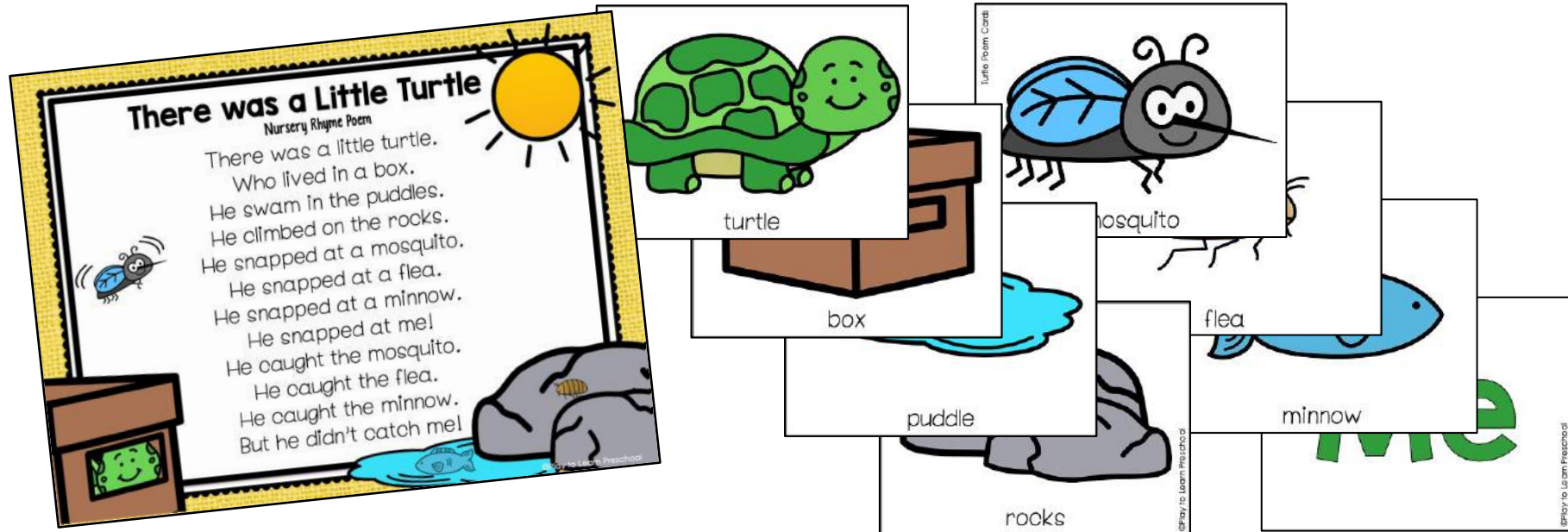
A nursery rhyme is a traditional rhyming poem or song. Teaching nursery rhymes helps young children to develop auditory skills and helps with speech development.

### Objective:

- The students will develop listening and speaking skills by reciting a poem.

### Activities:

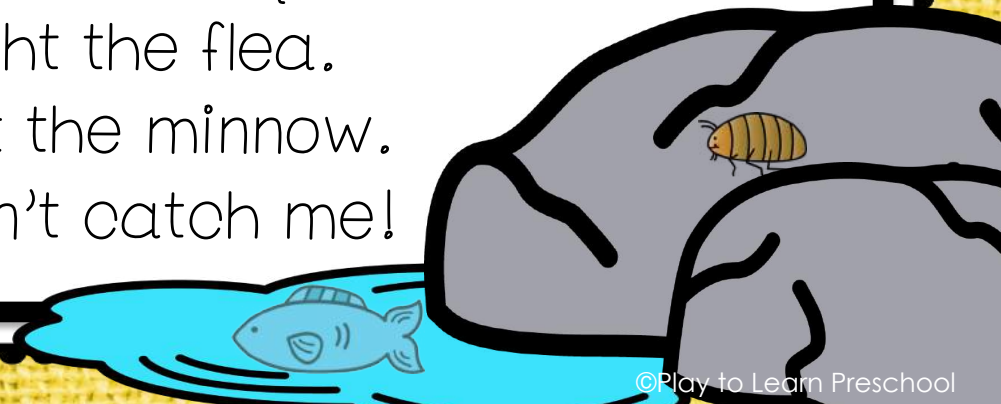
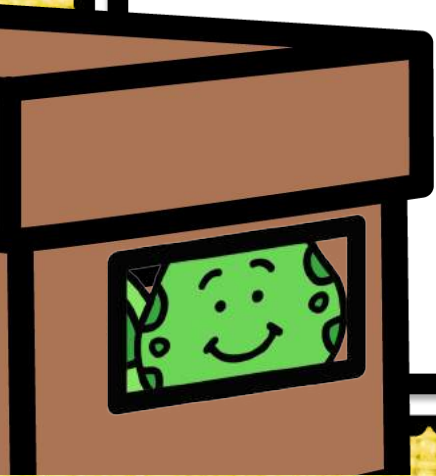
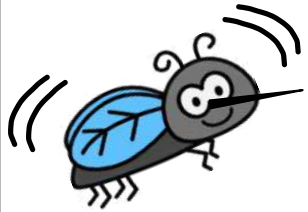
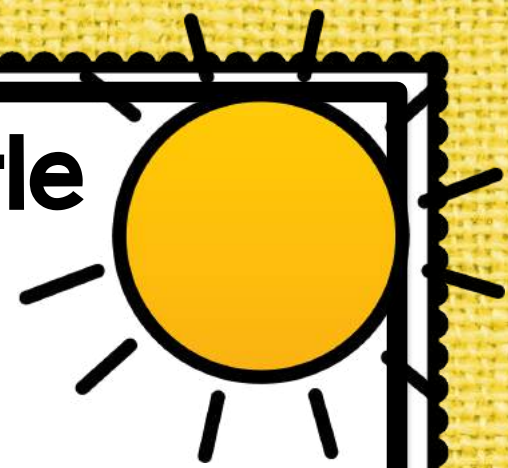
- Read the poem to the students and invite the children to join you in singing it again.
- Show the coordinating prop card with each line.
- Hide the prop card when the turtle "snaps" that item. Use thumbs to point to "me".

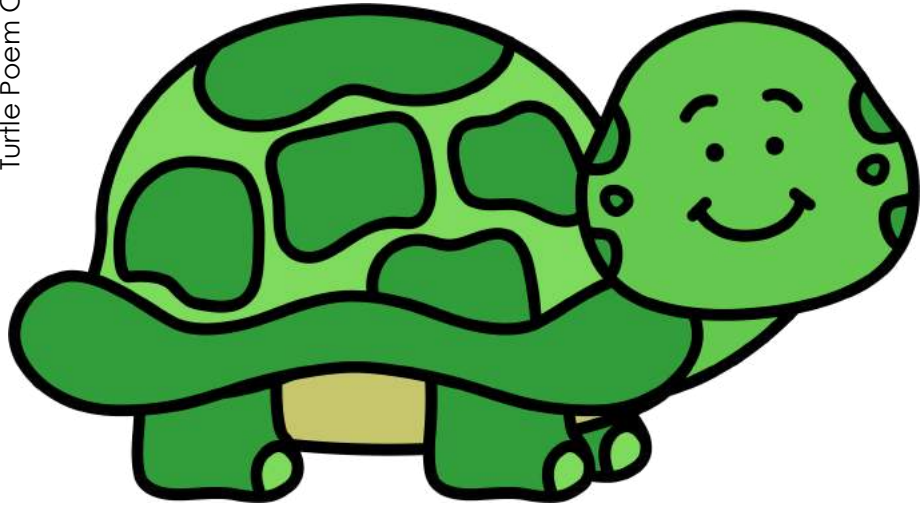


# There was a Little Turtle

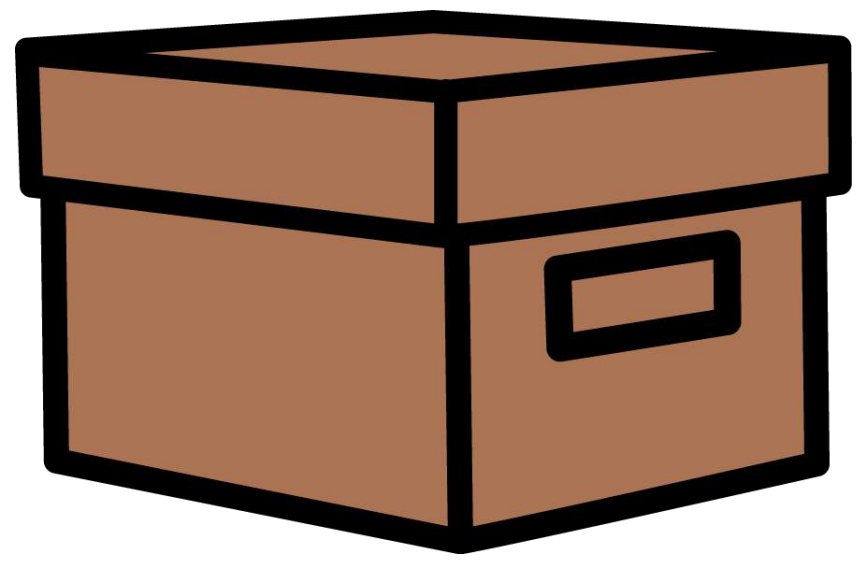
## Nursery Rhyme Poem

There was a little turtle.  
Who lived in a box.  
He swam in the puddles.  
He climbed on the rocks.  
He snapped at a mosquito.  
He snapped at a flea.  
He snapped at a minnow.  
He snapped at me!  
He caught the mosquito.  
He caught the flea.  
He caught the minnow.  
But he didn't catch me!

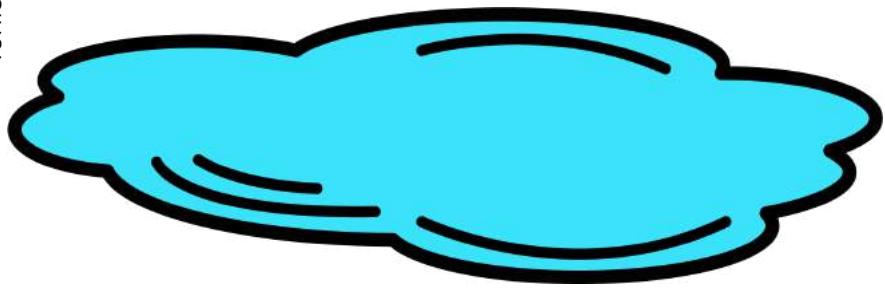




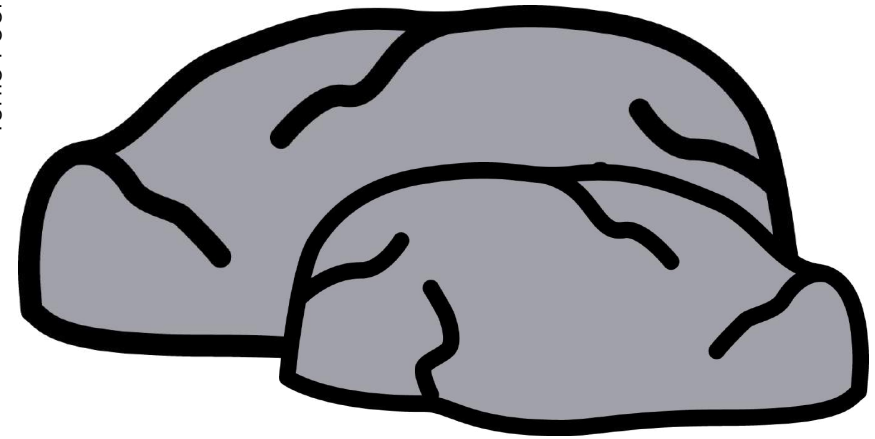
turtle



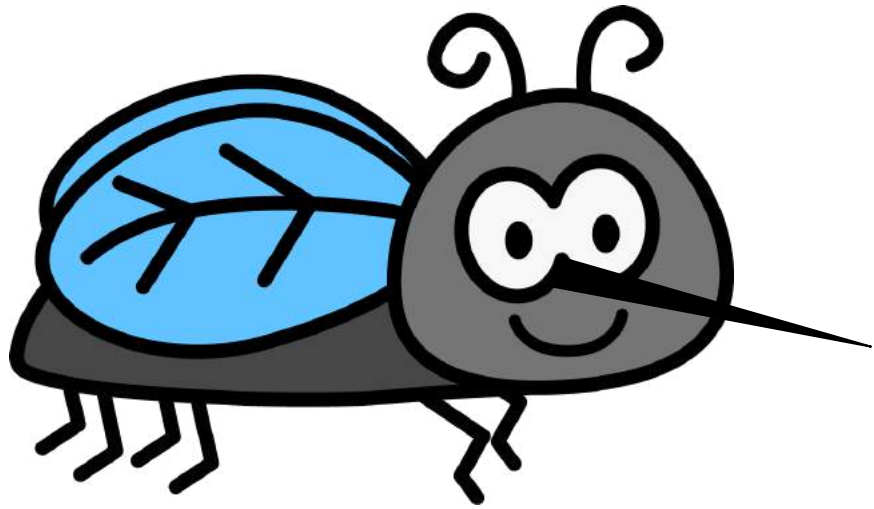
box



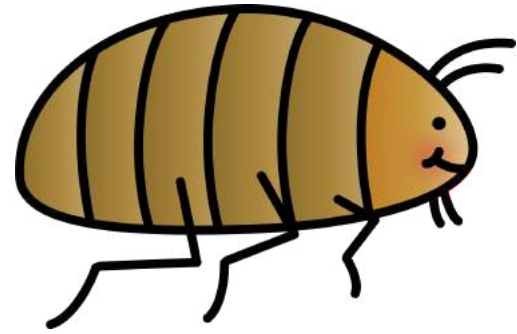
puddle



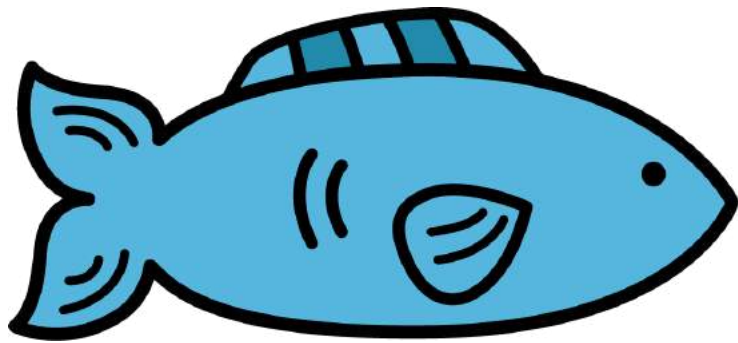
rocks



mosquito



flea



minnow

me

# There Was a Little Turtle

## Observation and Life Science

Day 2  
Lesson  
Plans

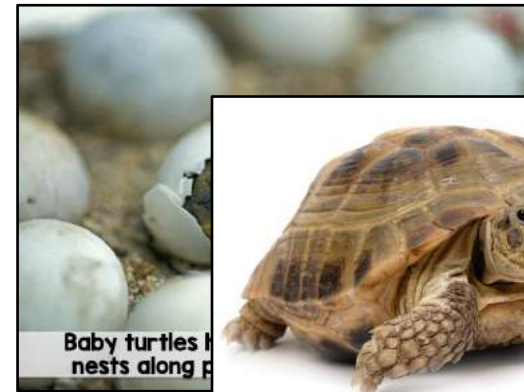
Introducing life science and science vocabulary to young children improves their verbal skills and sparks their curiosity.

### Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.
- The students will draw and imitate the act of writing.

### Activities:

1. Look at the pictures of the turtles and engage in discussion questions. "Have you ever seen a turtle?" "How do you think the shell helps the turtle?"
2. Show students realistic toy turtles and discuss.
3. Talk about what it would be like to have a shell on your back to hide in. Remind students not to disturb turtles if they see them outside.
4. Print a journal page for each student. Students can draw a picture of a turtle. The words can be written for the student if necessary.



Baby turtles  
nests along p



Turtles are reptiles that have a hard shell to protect themselves.



### Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **turtle**. Take one hand and make a fist with the thumb sticking out. Use the other hand to cover the fist with the thumb sticking out like a turtle's head. Wiggle the thumb.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Turtles use their shells to protect themselves. If you were a turtle, what would your shell look like? Draw a picture below.

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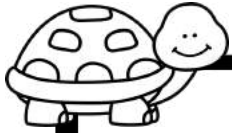
**Turtles are reptiles that have a hard shell to protect their backs.**



**Baby turtles hatch from eggs found in nests along ponds, lakes, and oceans.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Turtles use their shells to protect themselves. If you were a turtle, what would your shell look like? Draw a picture below.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a picture of a turtle's shell.

# There Was a Little Turtle

## Label a Picture

Day 3  
lesson  
plans

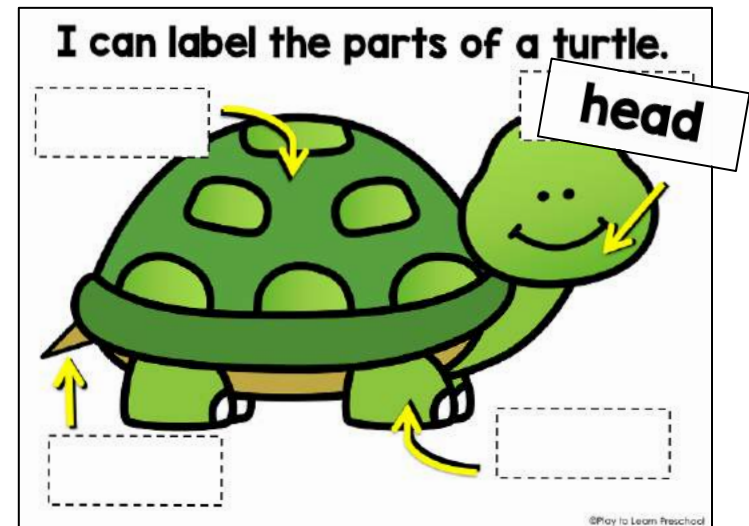
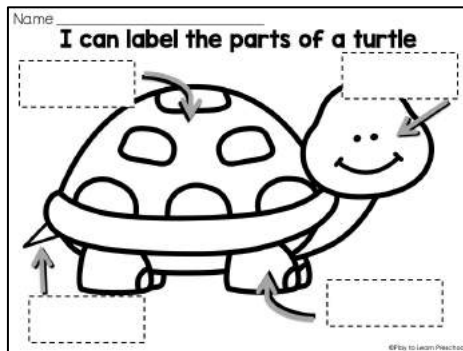
Through daily experiences with reading and writing, young children learn that print conveys meaning and accompanying images or illustrations help them comprehend print.

### Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.

### Activities:

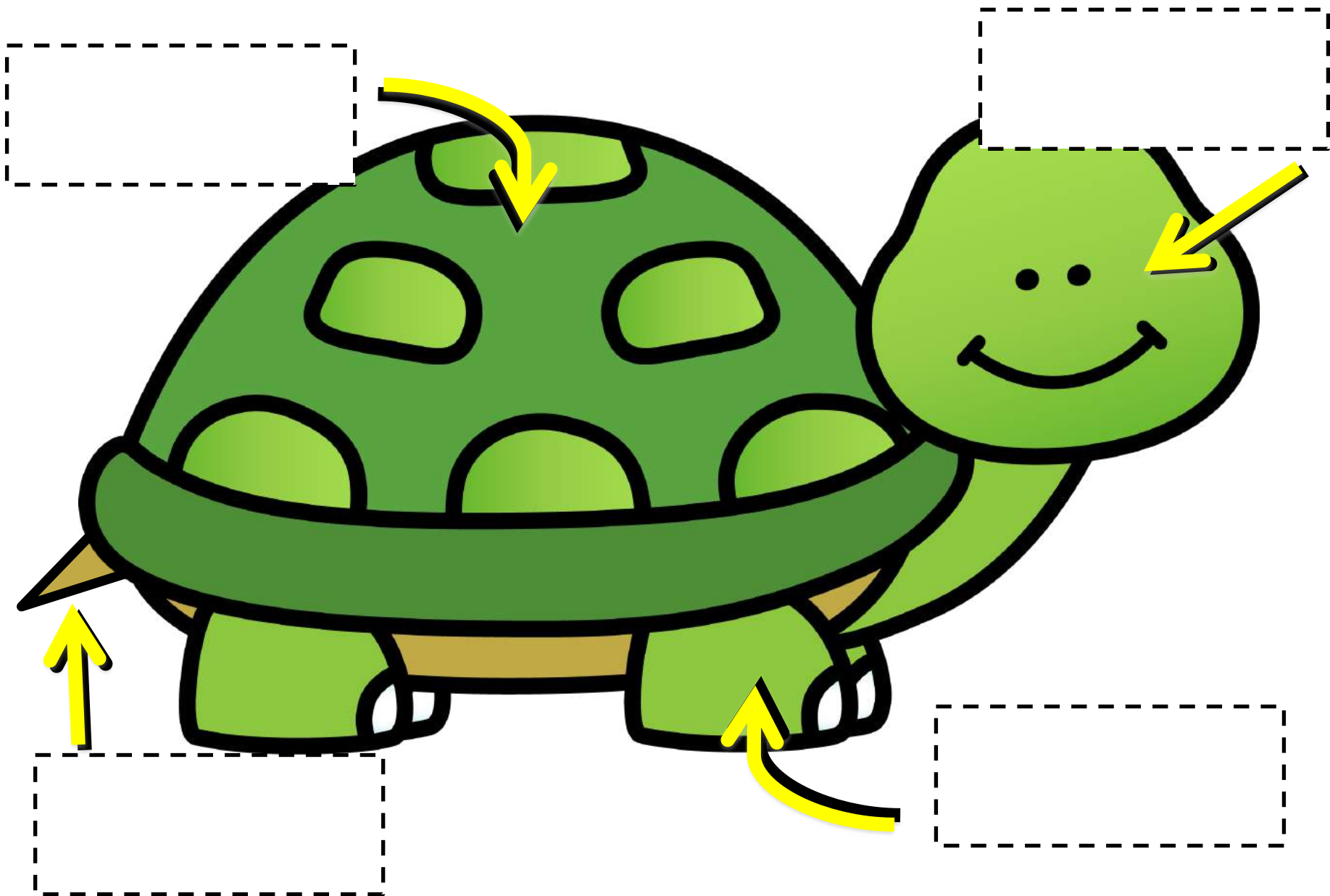
1. Point out the different parts of a turtle.
2. Label the picture of the turtle.
3. After labeling the turtle, have the students point to the part of their body that matches the labels. (tail – rear-end, shell - back)



#### Extension Idea:

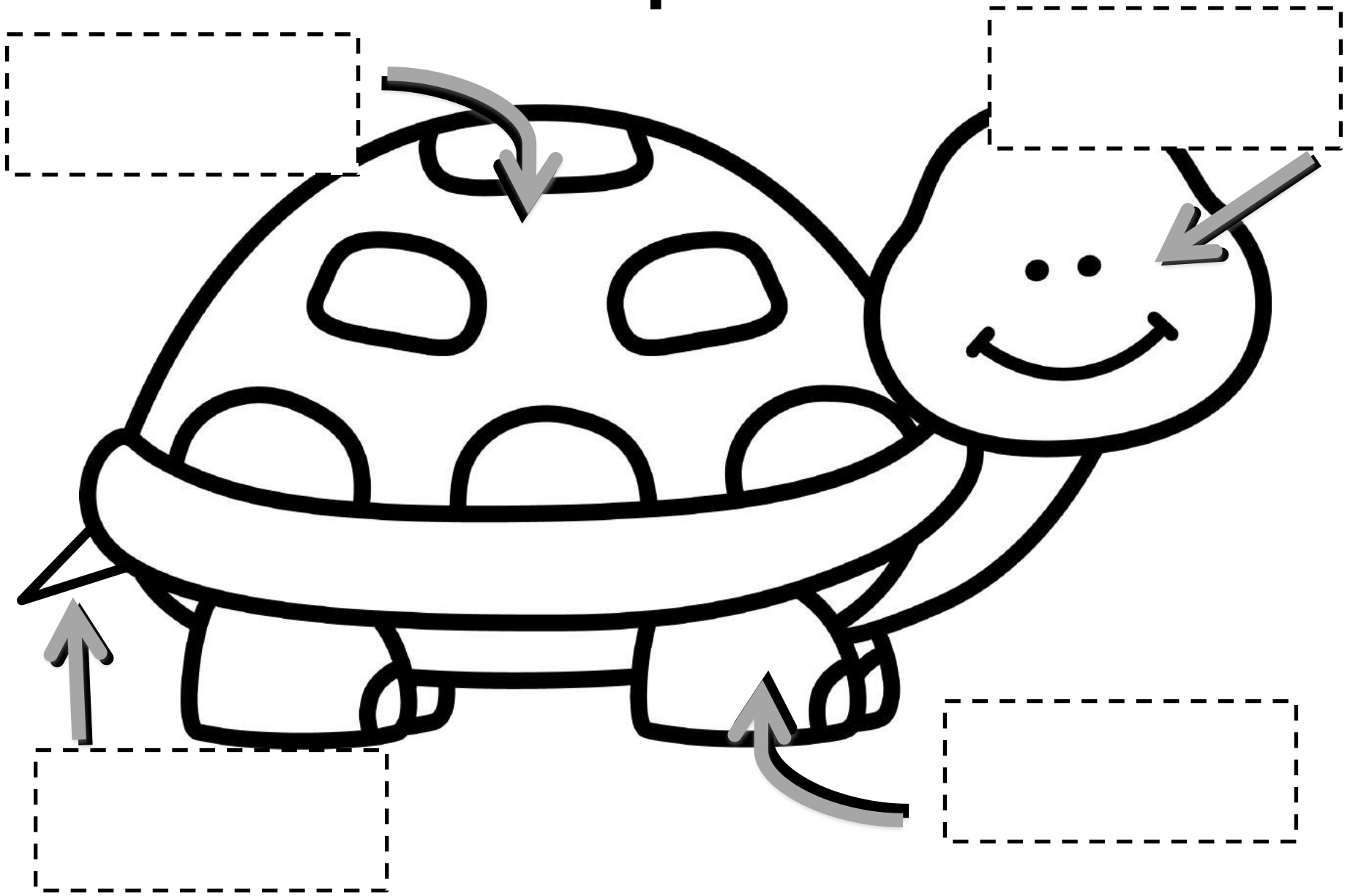
Print out the black and white copy of the turtle and extra labels. Have the students color the turtle and write the words or glue on the labels.

I can label the parts of a turtle.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# I can label the parts of a turtle



Use these cards to label the parts of a turtle.

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**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

**head**

**tail**

**feet**

**shell**

# There Was a Little Turtle

## Action Dice Game

Day 4  
lesson  
plans

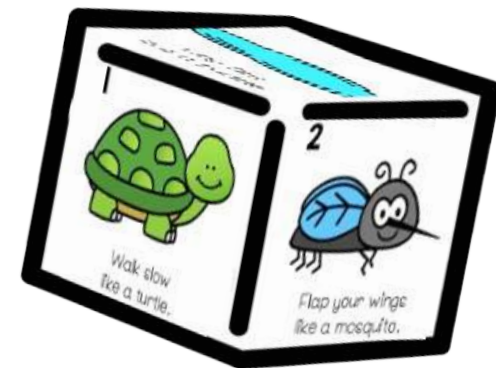
Practicing active listening develops communication and problem-solving skills. Incorporate these with a fun movement activity.

### Objectives:

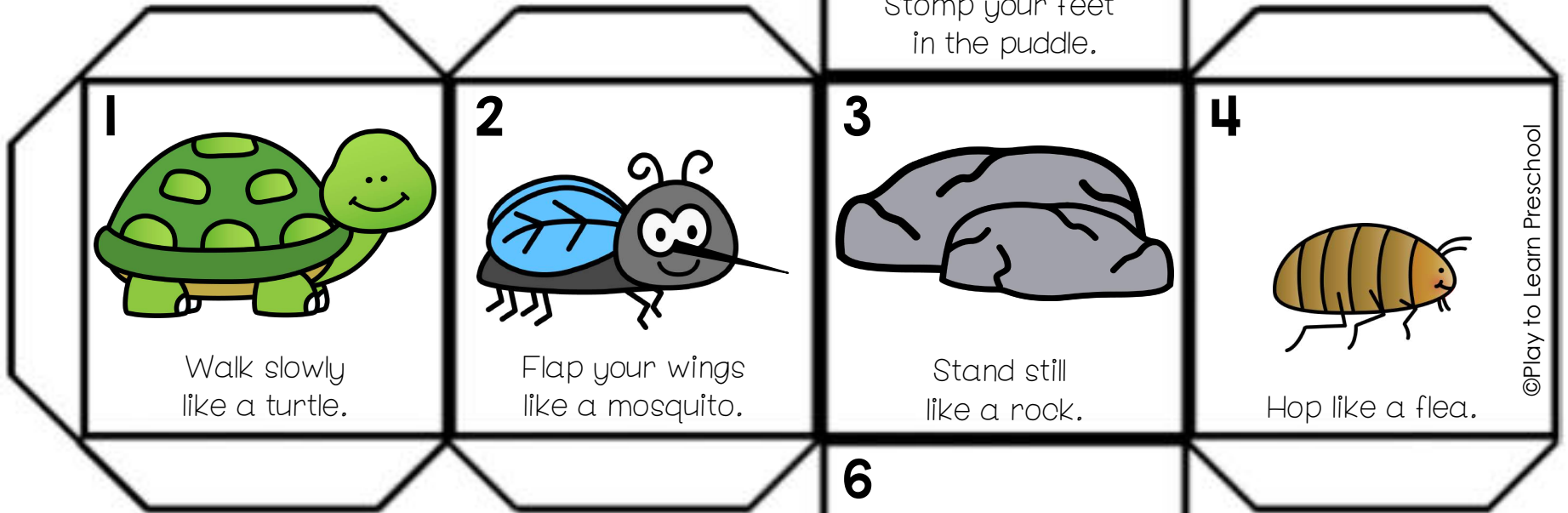
- The students will follow oral directions.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills. (running, jumping, hopping, etc.)

### Activities:

1. Show the students each side of the die and practice the movements.
2. The students take turns rolling the die and then move like the item shown in the picture.



# Turtle Time Actions!



- Copy this template, cut it out and fold it into a die. Glue the edges to secure.
- Children take turns rolling the die.
- Everyone makes the sound or action of the object rolled.

# There Was a Little Turtle

## Chip Clip Poem

Day 5  
Lesson  
Plans

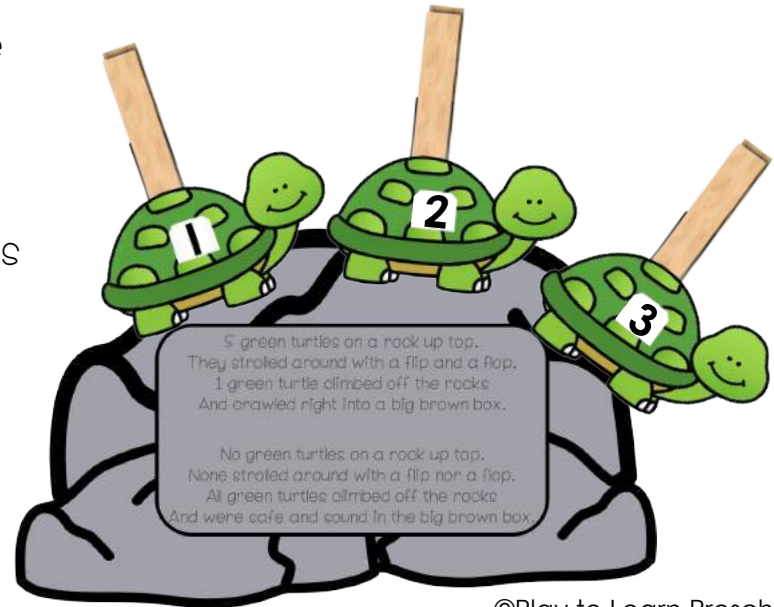
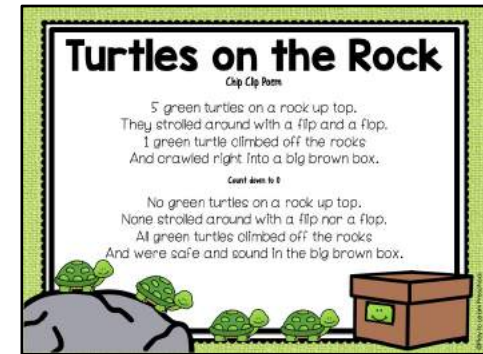
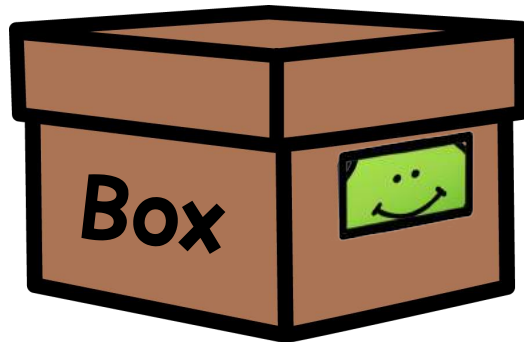
Math skills are the foundation for logic and critical thinking. Number sense is the first step in math awareness. Counting, addition, and subtraction help children understand the meaning of numbers.

### Objectives:

- The students will identify numbers.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.

### Activities:

1. Cut out the turtles and attach to clothes pins. Cut out the rock and box. Mat and laminate as desired. Alternatively use a real box to drop the clips into. If no real box is available, hide the turtle clips under the box card.
2. Recite the chip clip poem, "Turtles on the Rock." Remove a clip from the rock as the poem counts down.



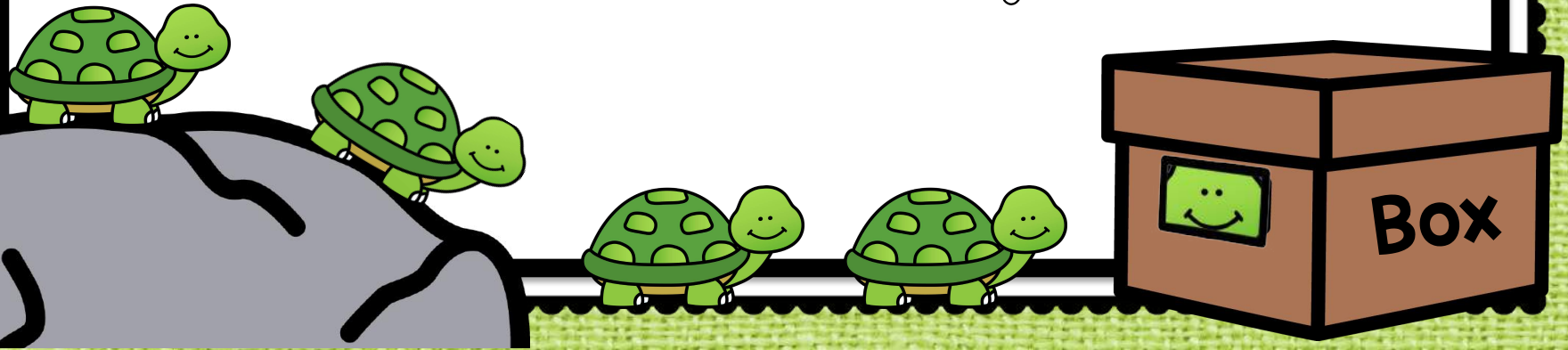
# Turtles on the Rock

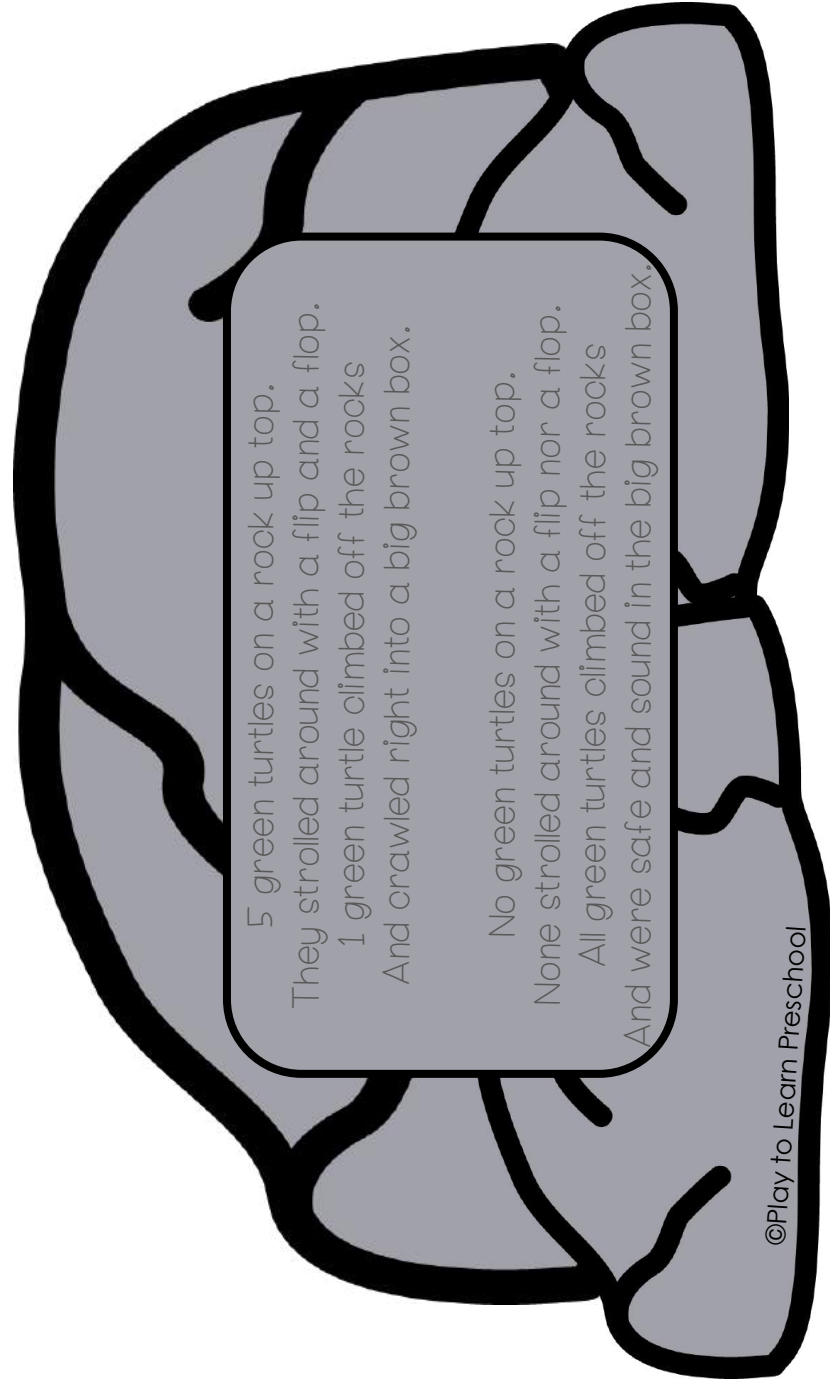
## Chip Clip Poem

5 green turtles on a rock up top.  
They strolled around with a flip and a flop.  
1 green turtle climbed off the rocks  
And crawled right into a big brown box.

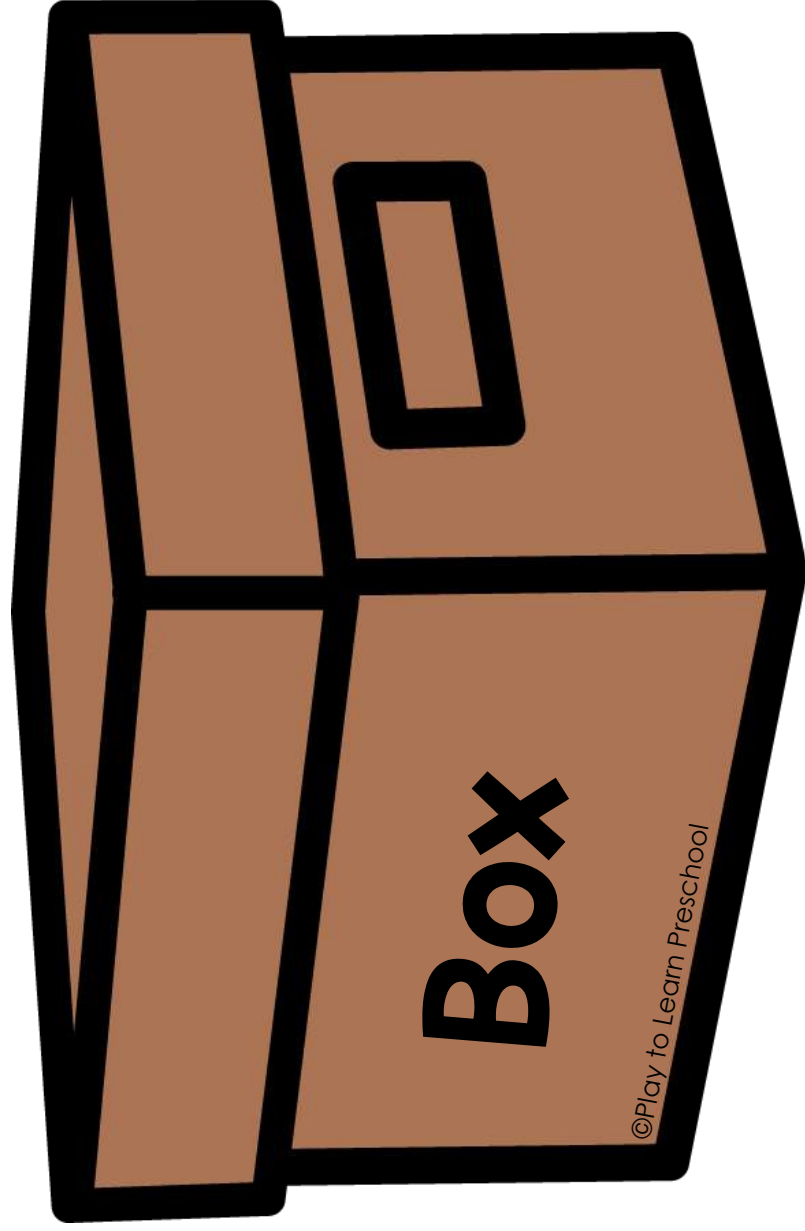
## Count down to 0

No green turtles on a rock up top.  
None strolled around with a flip nor a flop.  
All green turtles climbed off the rocks  
And were safe and sound in the big brown box.



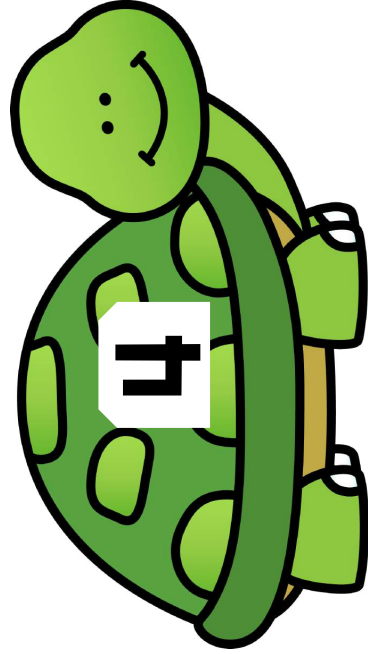


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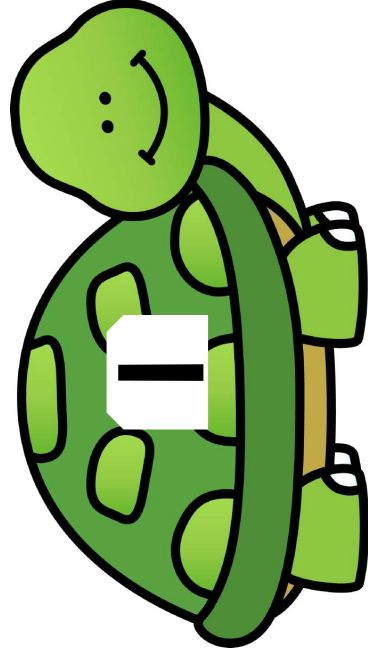


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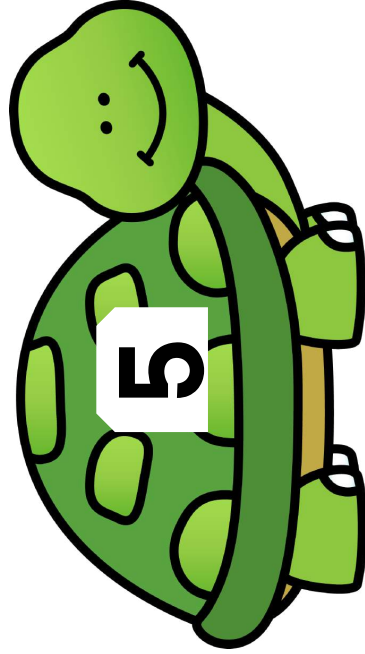
Brave Astronauts poem



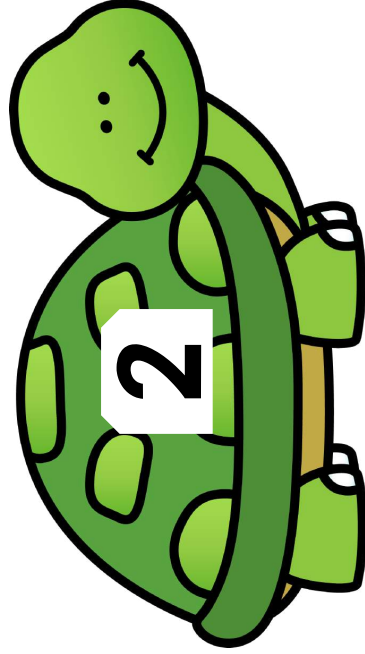
Brave Astronauts poem



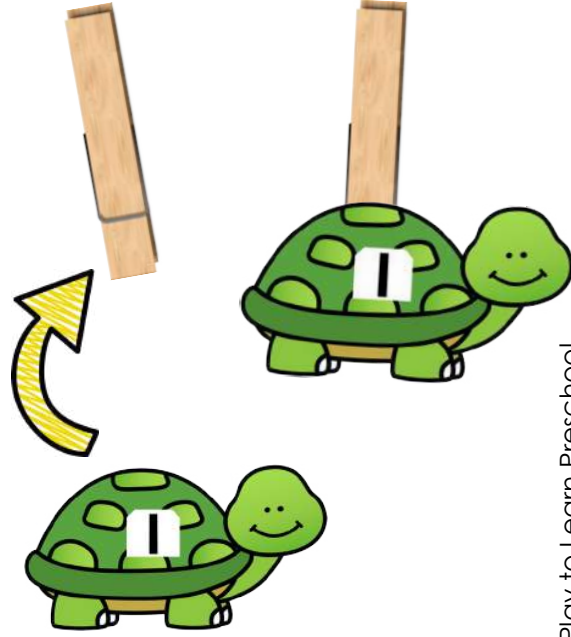
Brave Astronauts poem



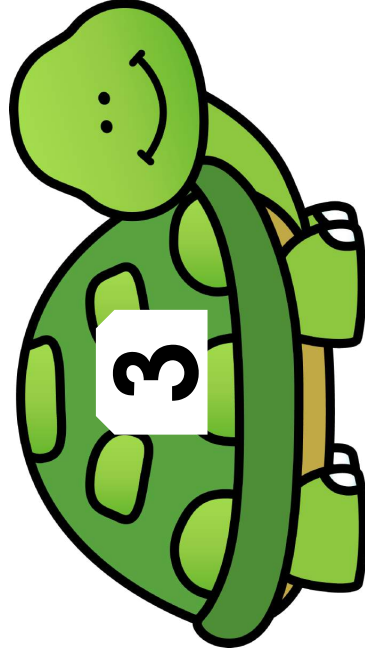
Brave Astronauts poem



Brave Astronauts poem



Brave Astronauts poem



# There Was a Little Turtle

## Number Puzzles

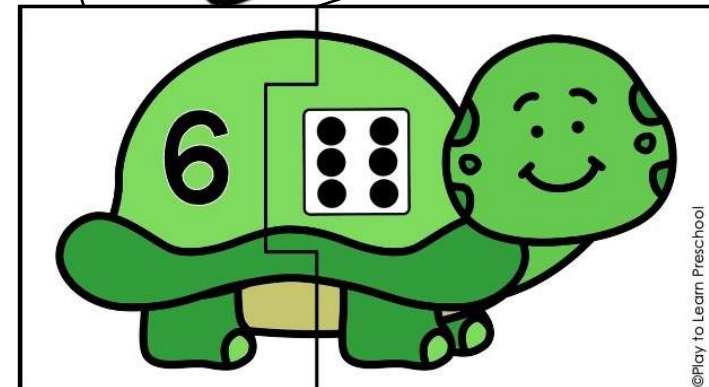
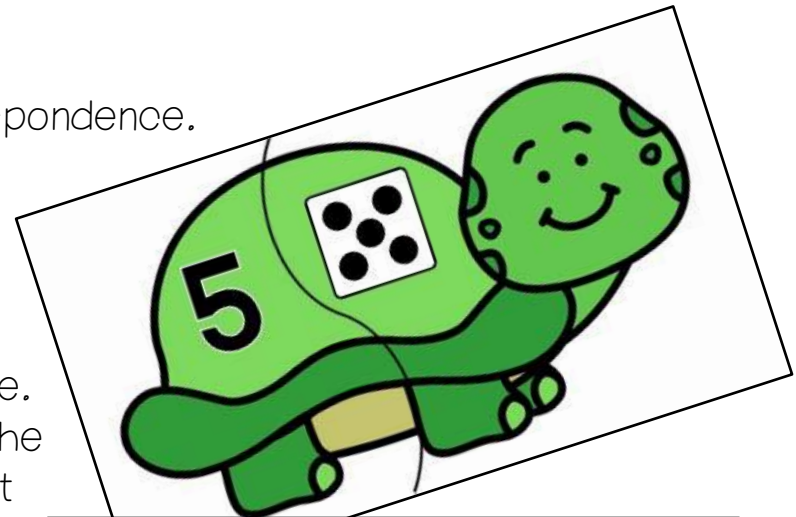
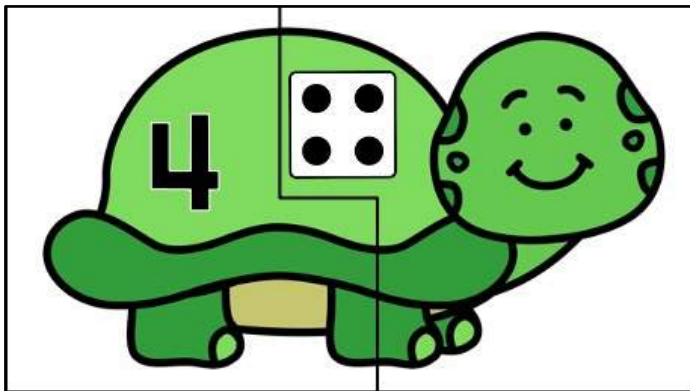
To develop an understanding of numbers and number sense, children must have daily experiences where they compare numbers and count in ways that are personally meaningful and challenging.

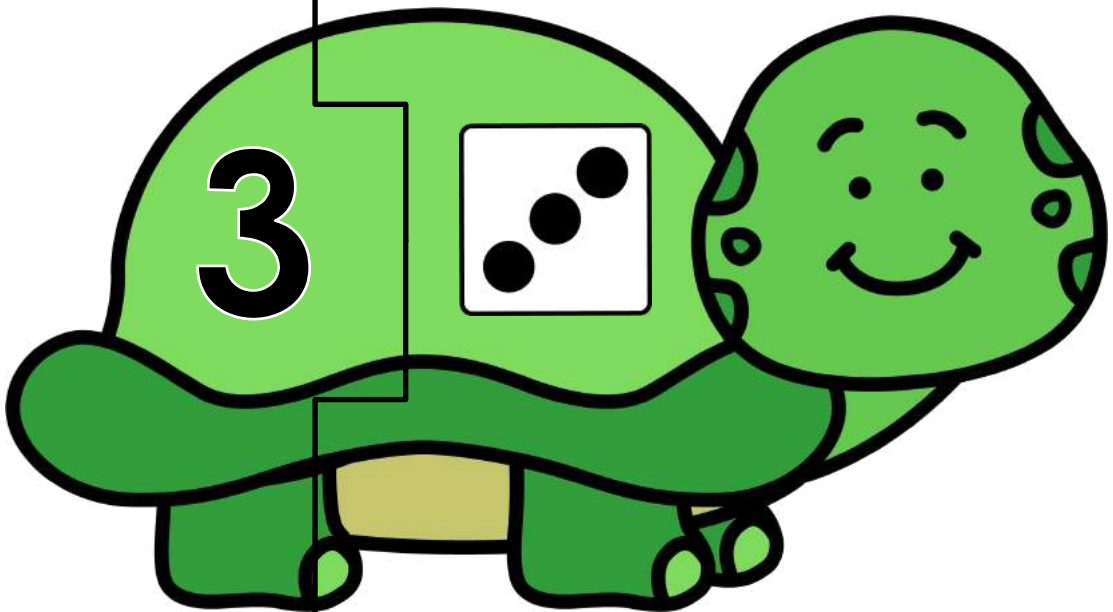
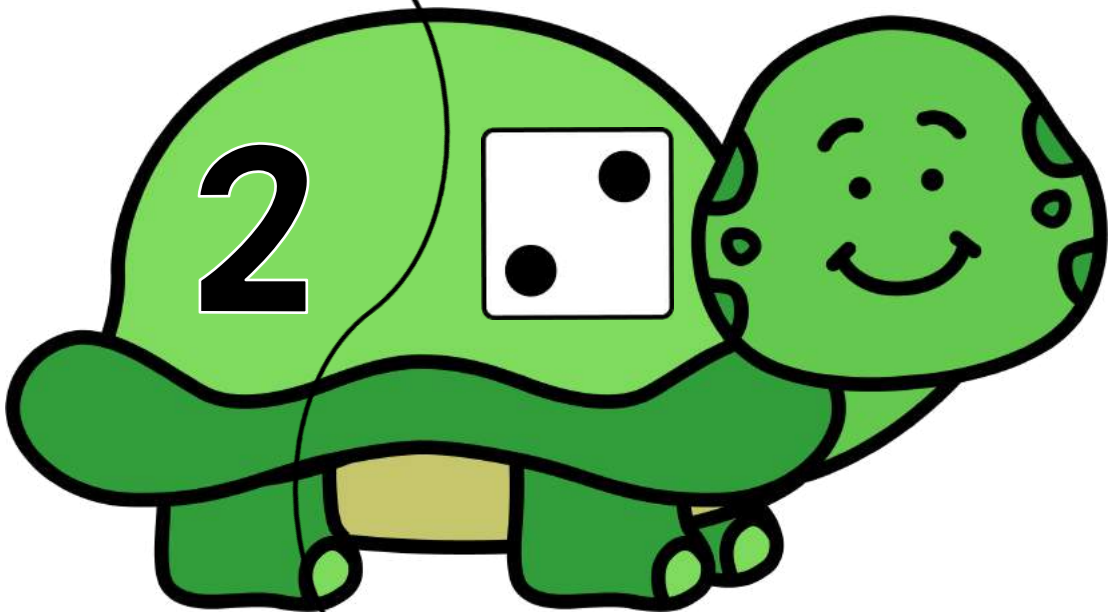
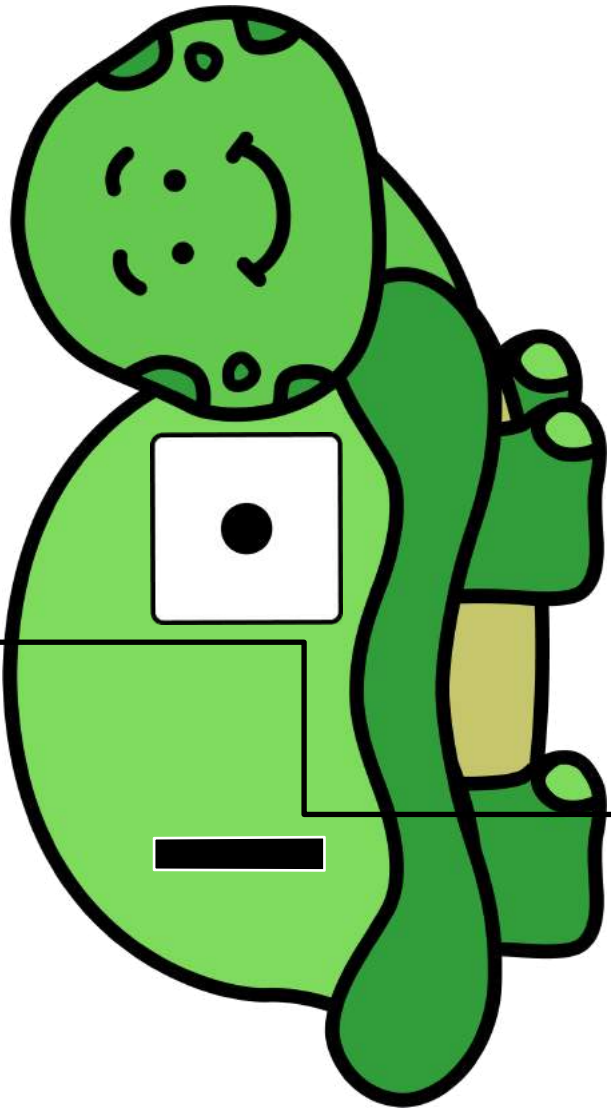
### Objectives:

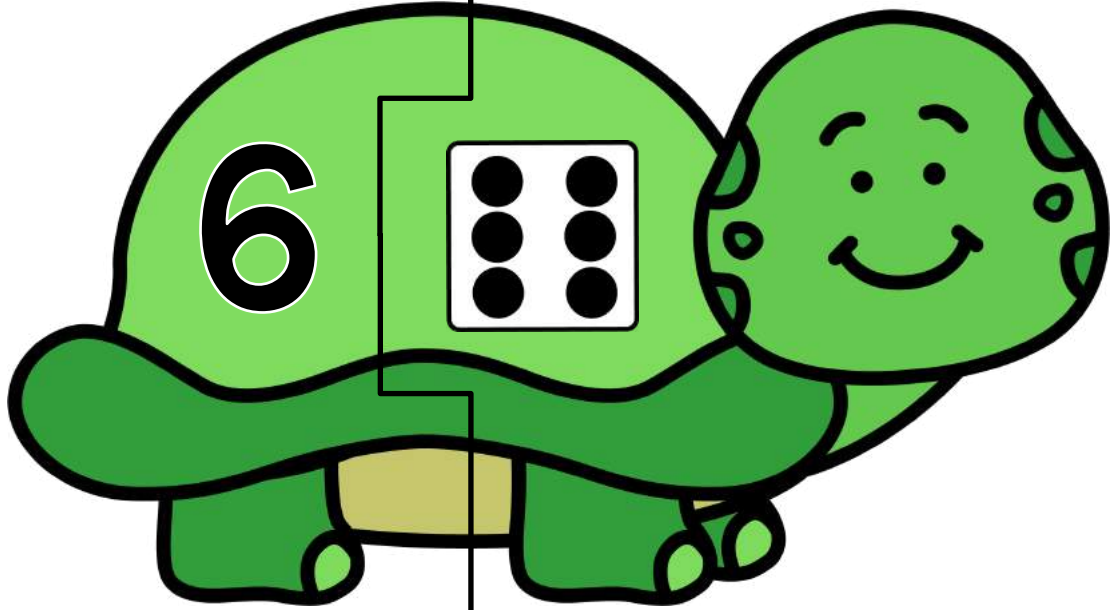
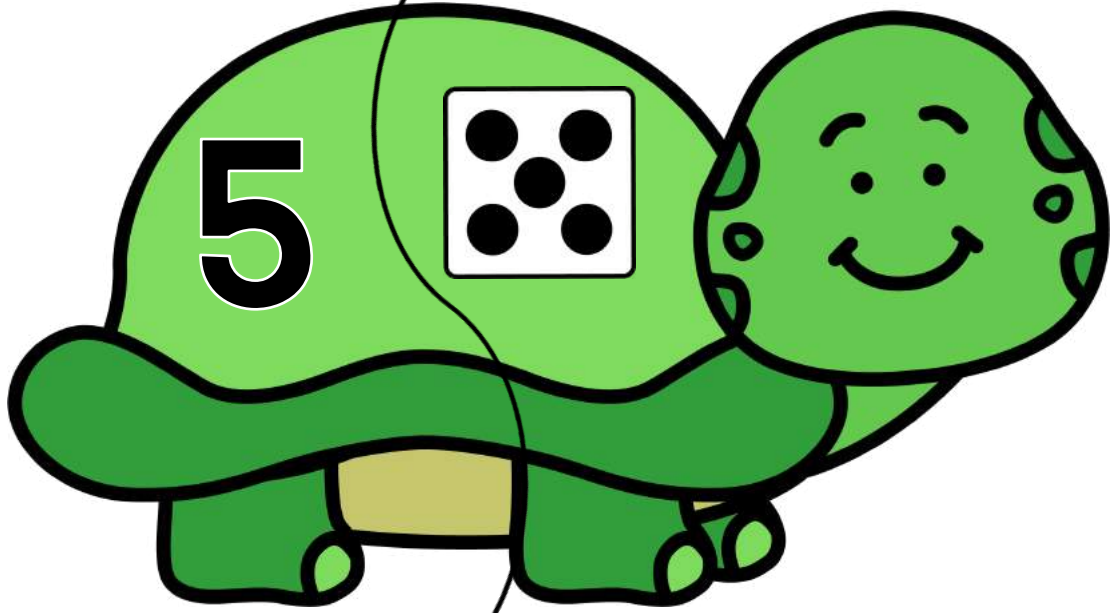
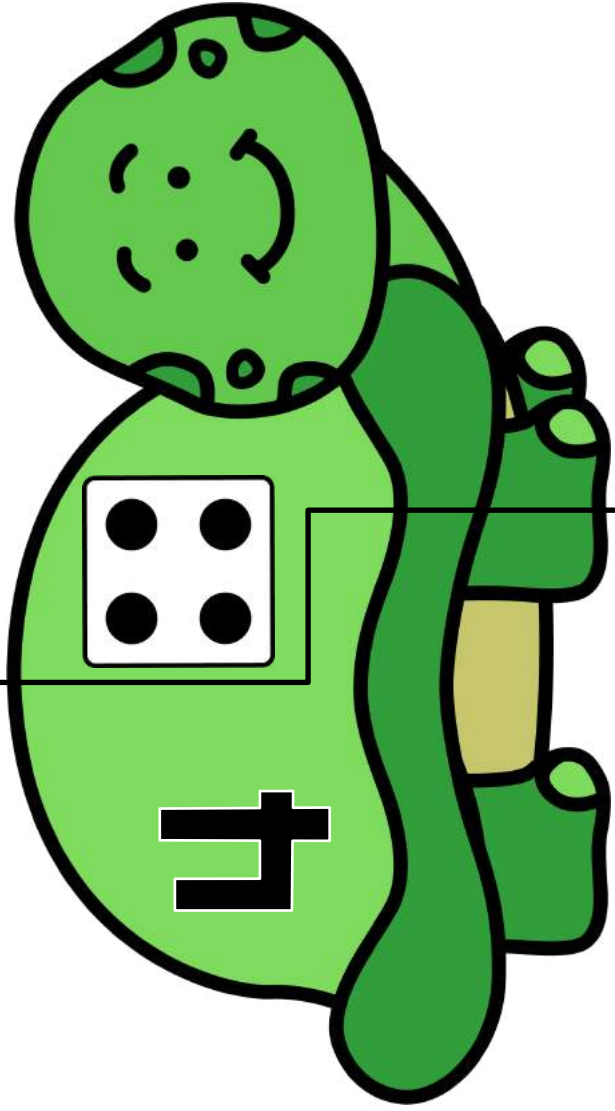
- The students will demonstrate one-to-one correspondence.
- The students will rote count.

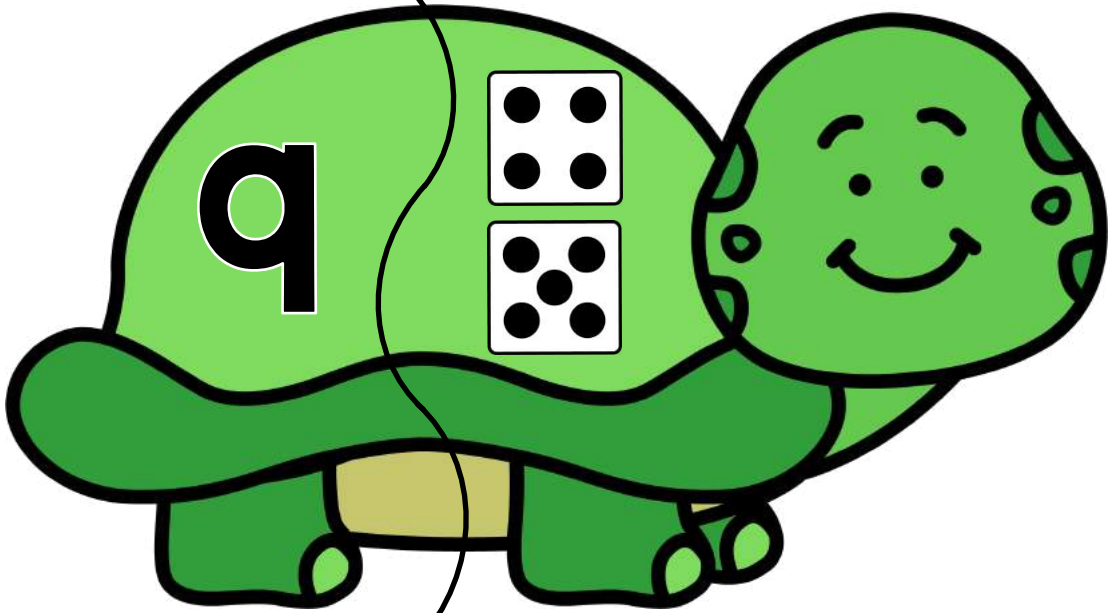
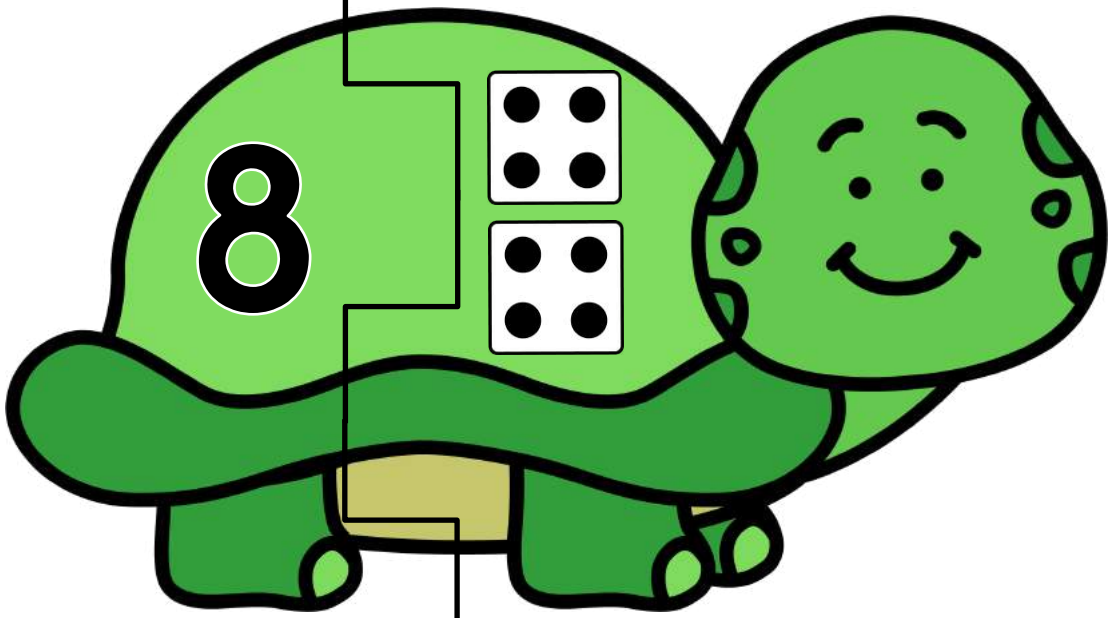
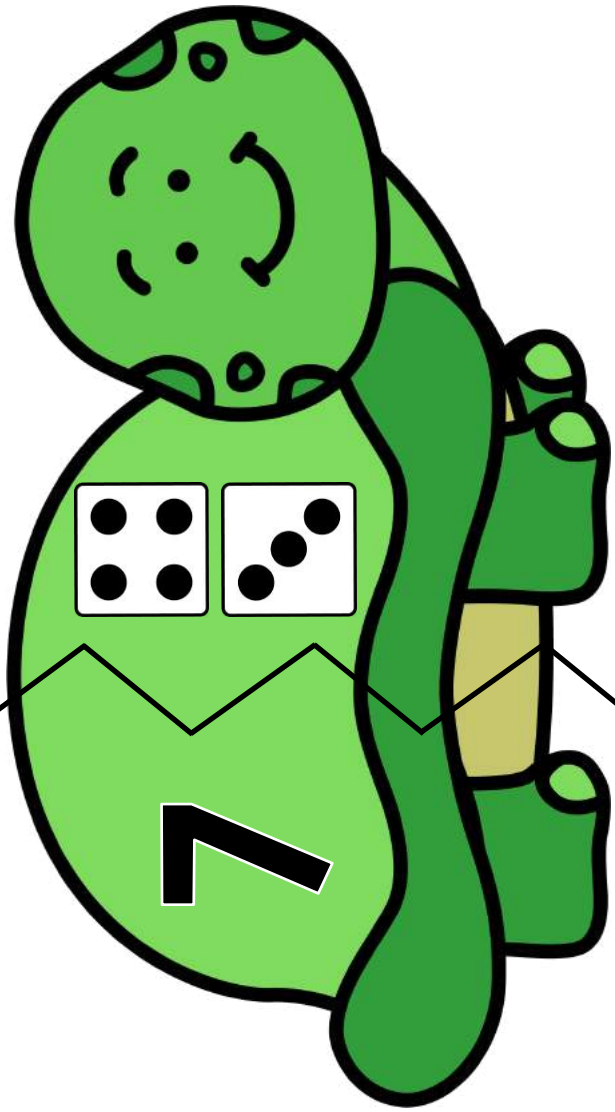
### Activity:

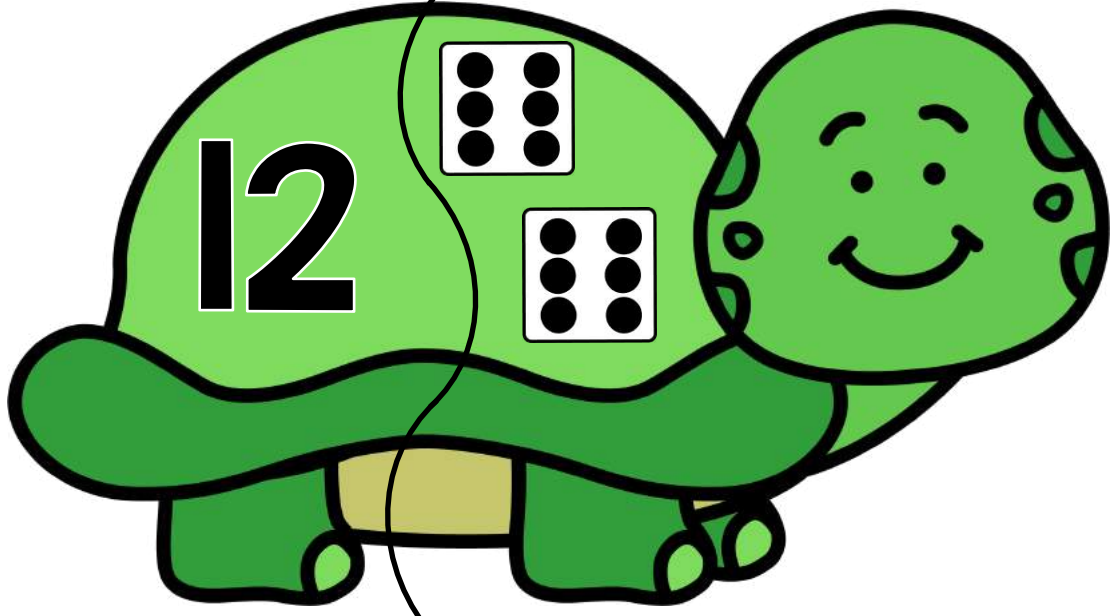
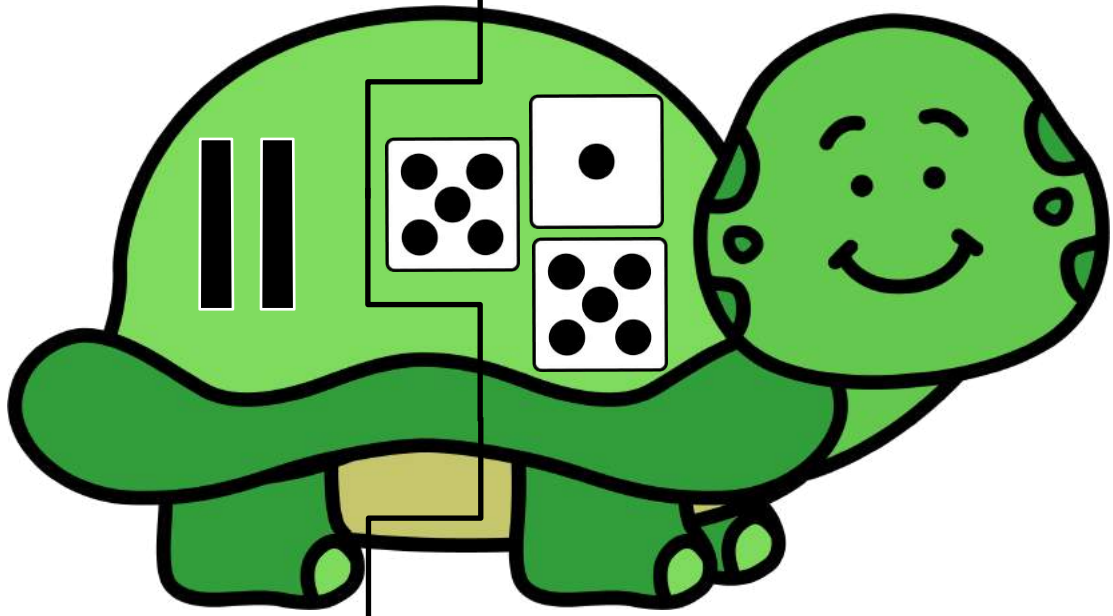
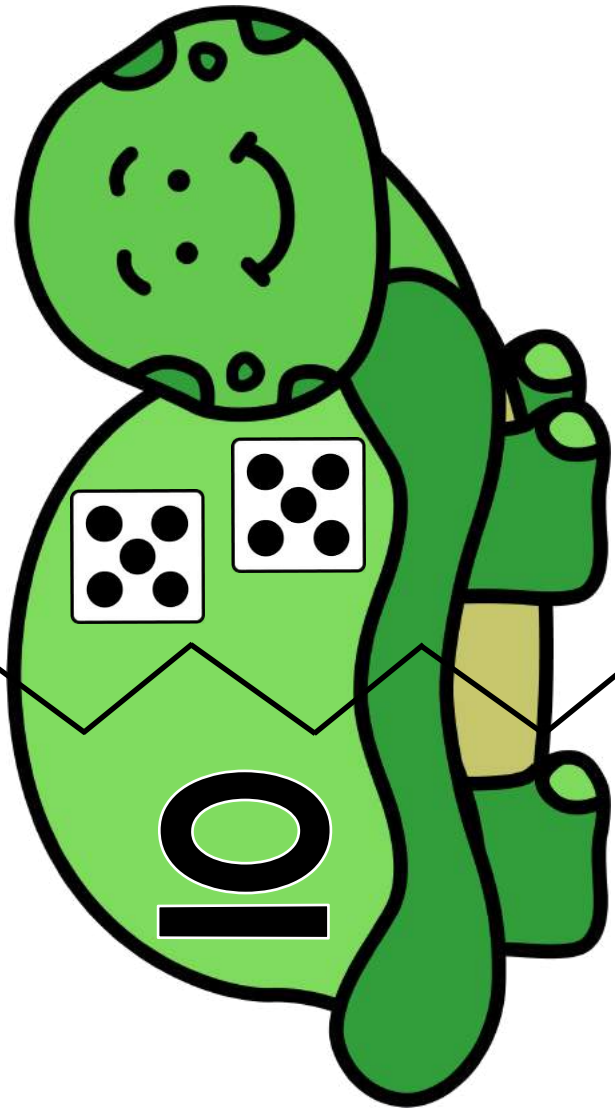
1. Copy the puzzles, mat, and laminate. Cut them apart on the middle lines.
2. Place the card puzzles on a table or flat surface. Choose puzzle pairs that are appropriate for the level of the students. The students match the left side of the number puzzles with the coordinating dice.

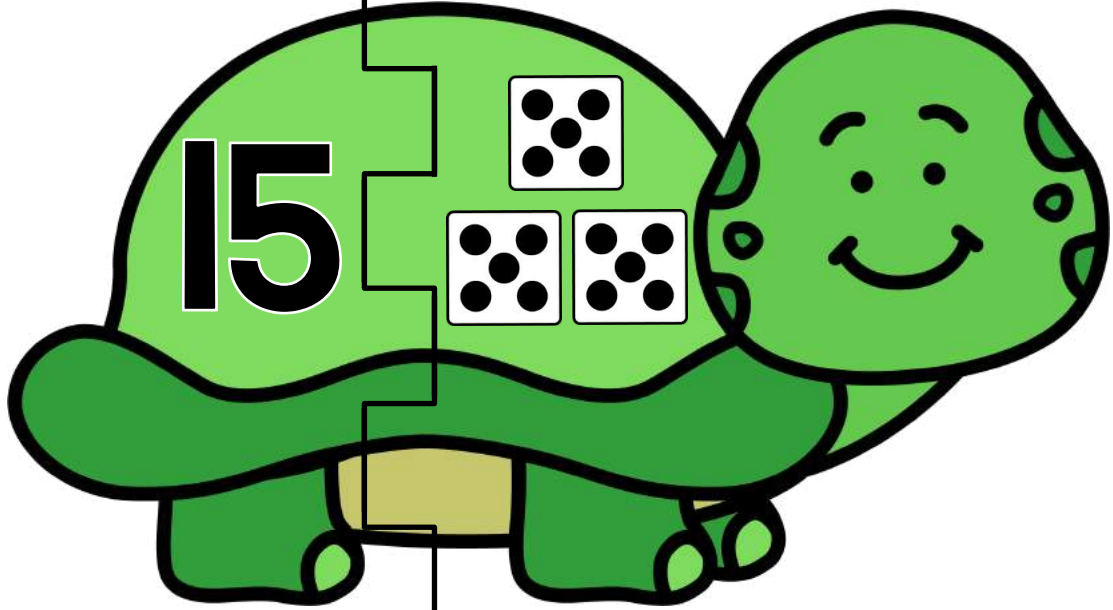
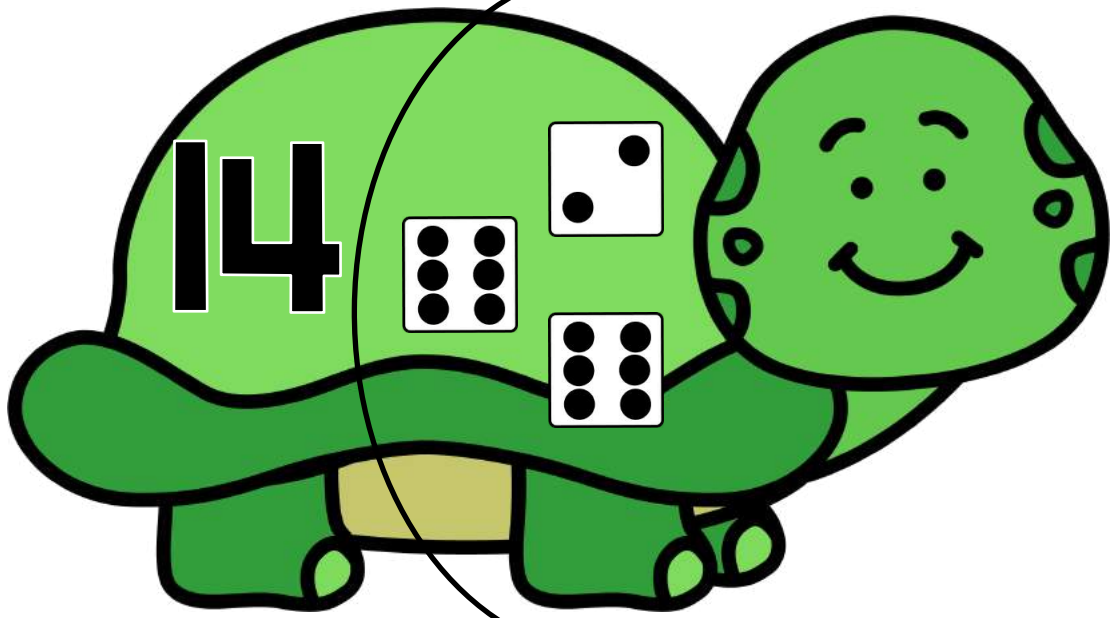
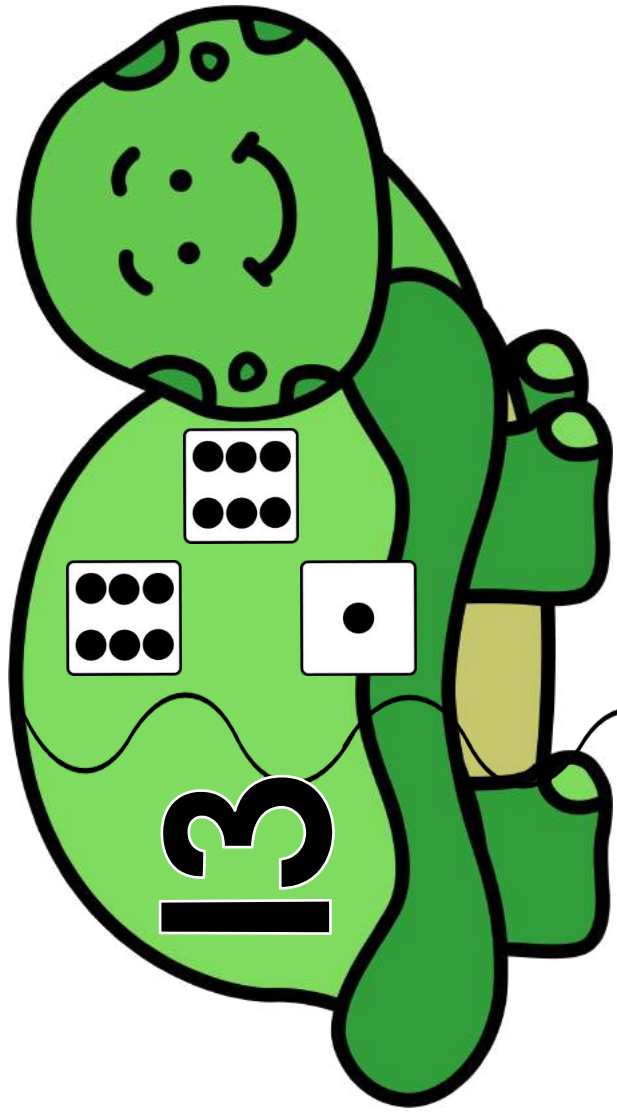


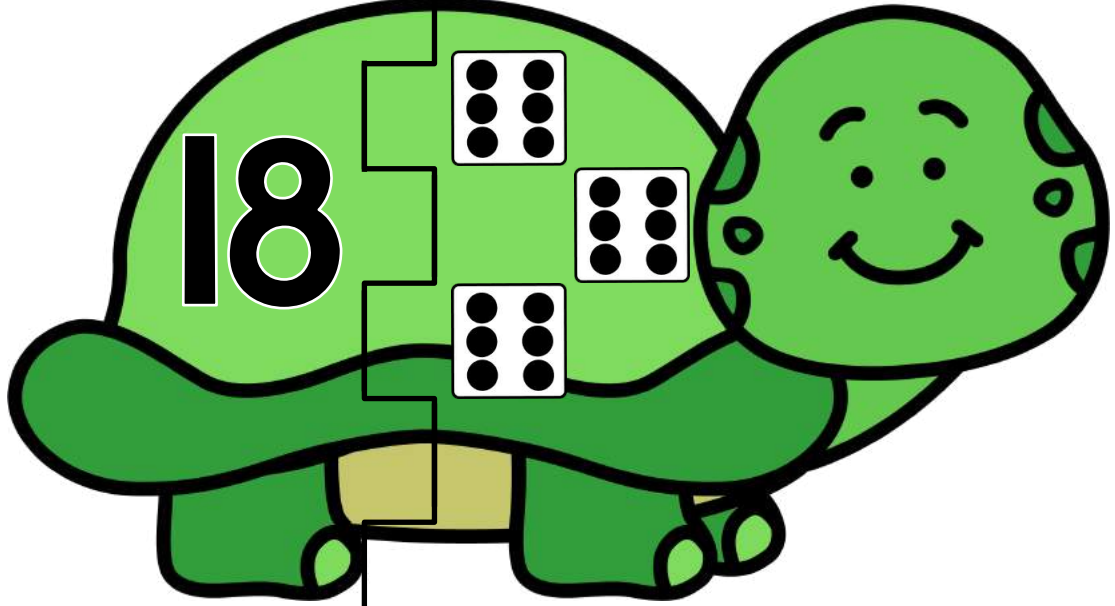
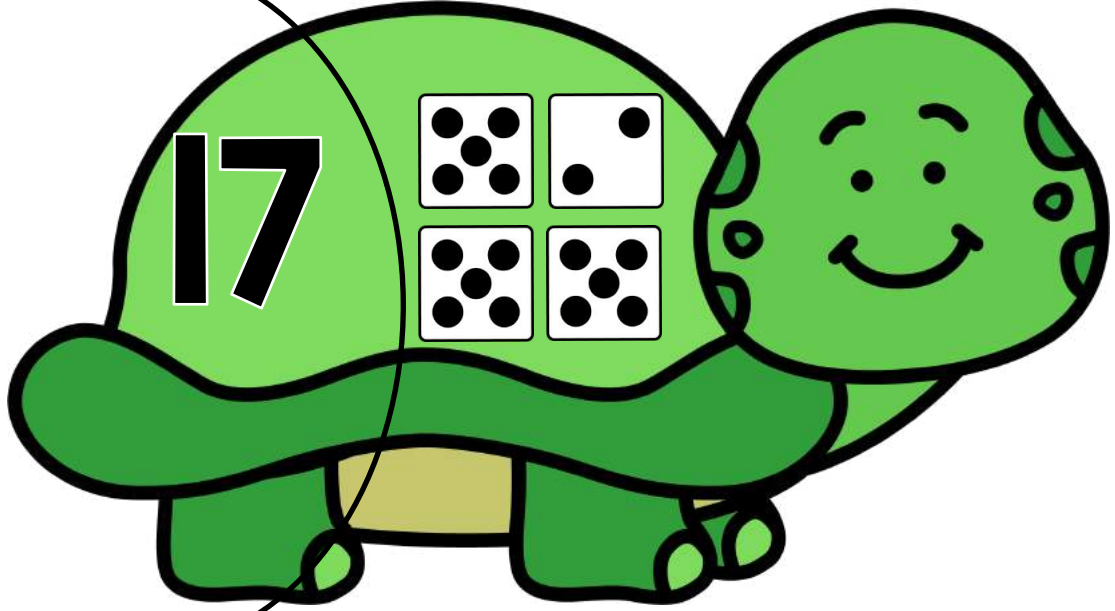
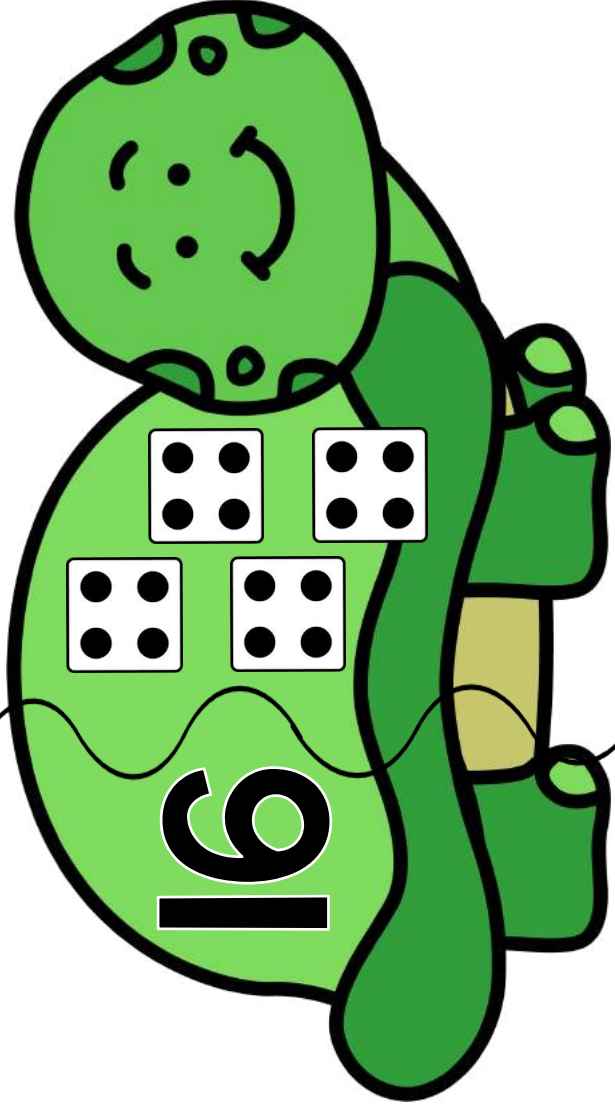


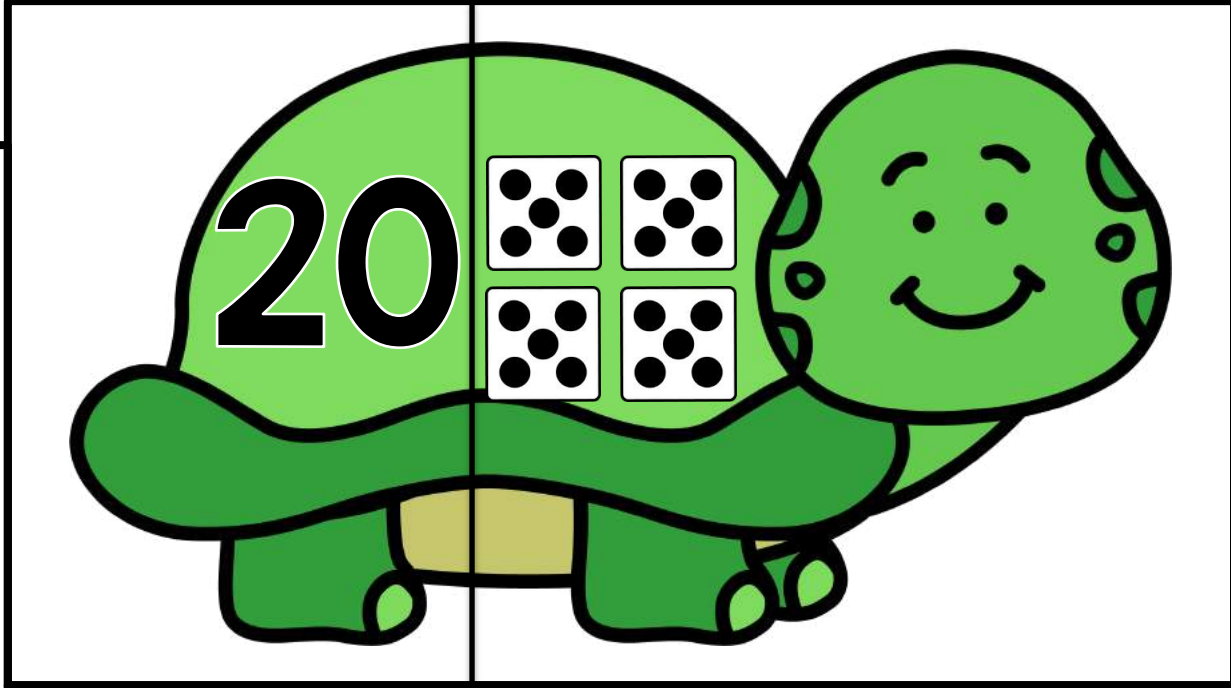
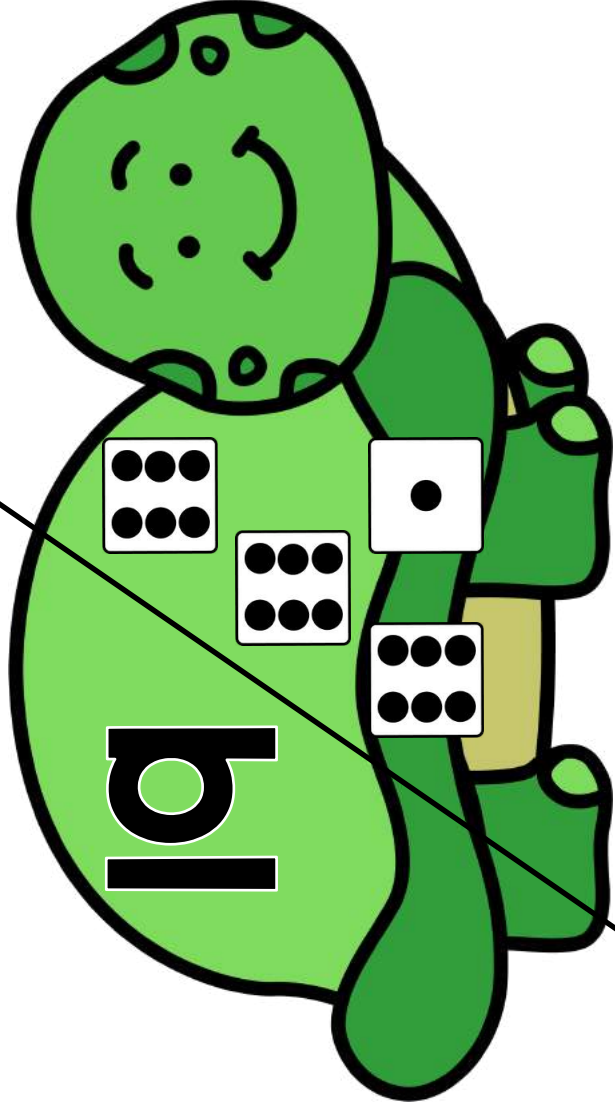








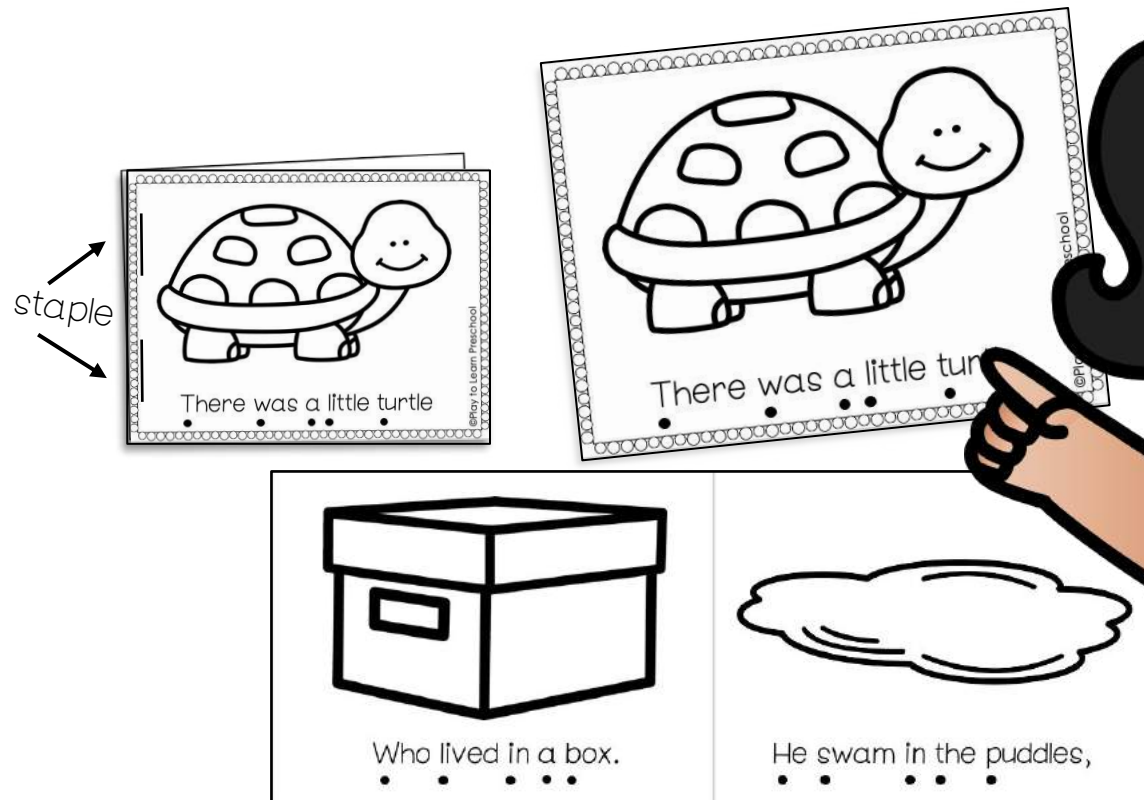




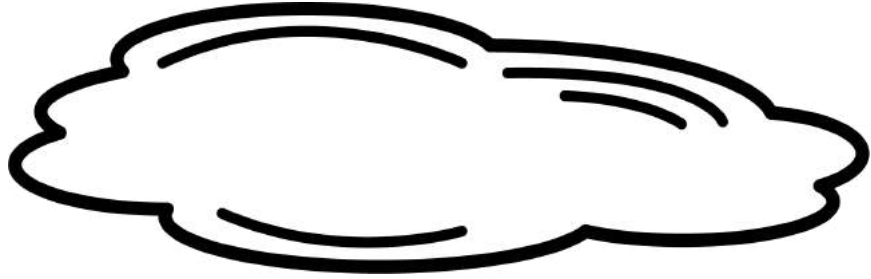
# Take-Home Mini Books

## Foldable Emergent Readers

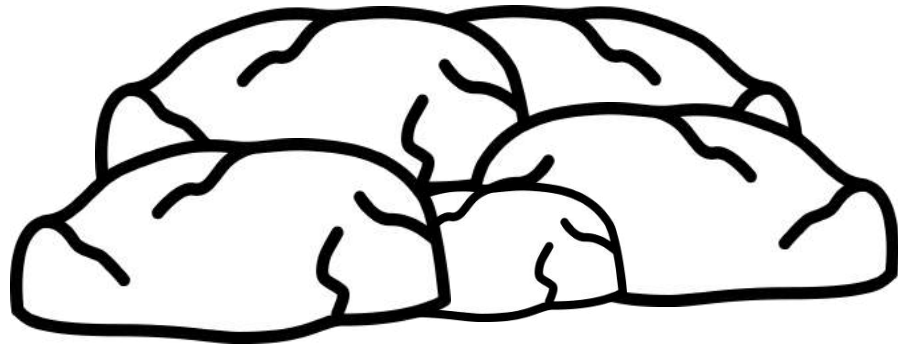
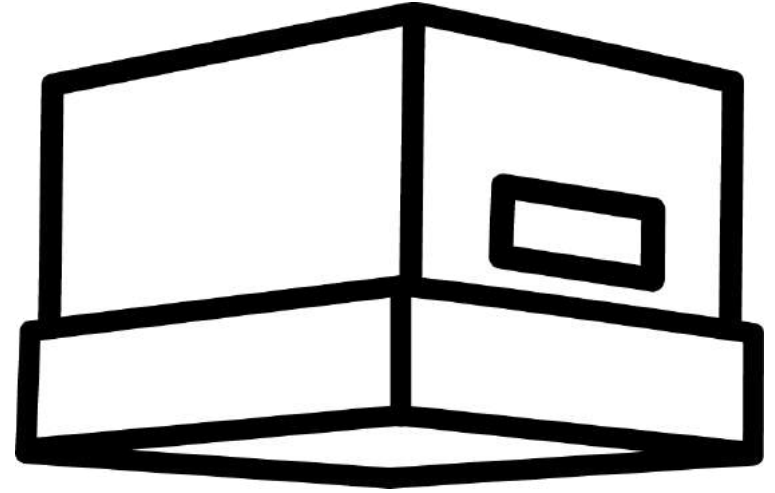
1. Print a poem for each child.
2. A single page rhyme and an extended version are included. Use the version appropriate for the students.
3. Fold the page into fourths – landscape first, then portrait. (You might glue the page together for younger children.) Staple the first booklet to the second booklet.
4. Invite students to point to the words and recite the memorized poem.



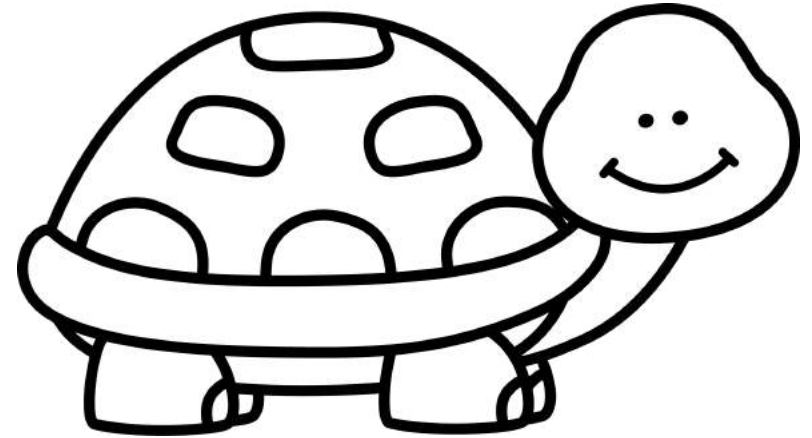
• • • • •  
He swam in the puddles,



• • • • •  
Who lived in a box.

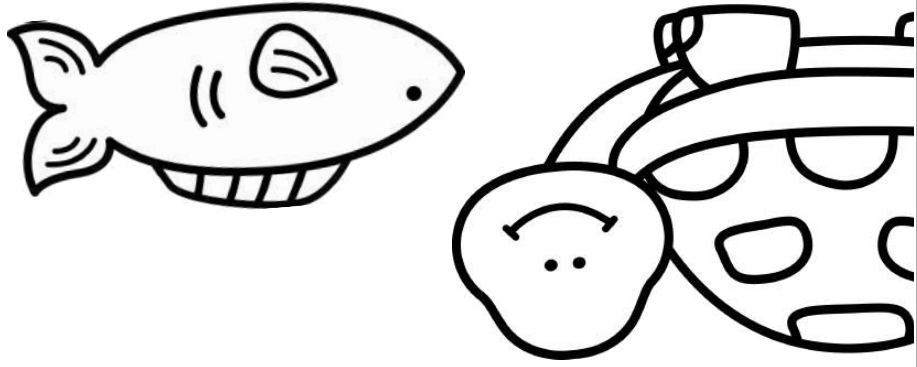


• • • • •  
He climbed on the rocks.

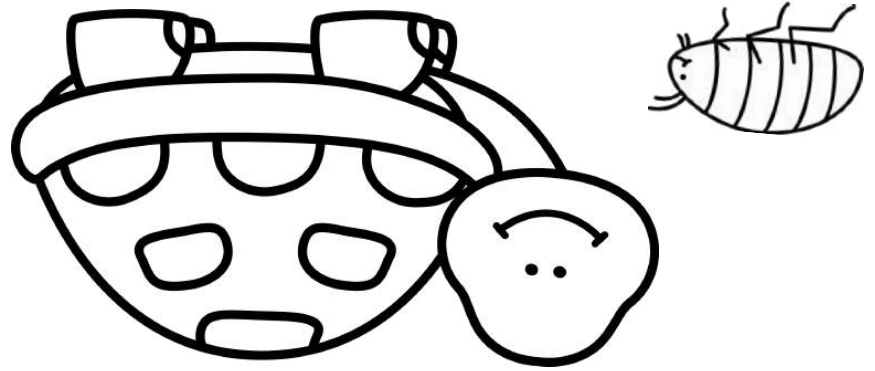


• • • • •  
There was a little turtle

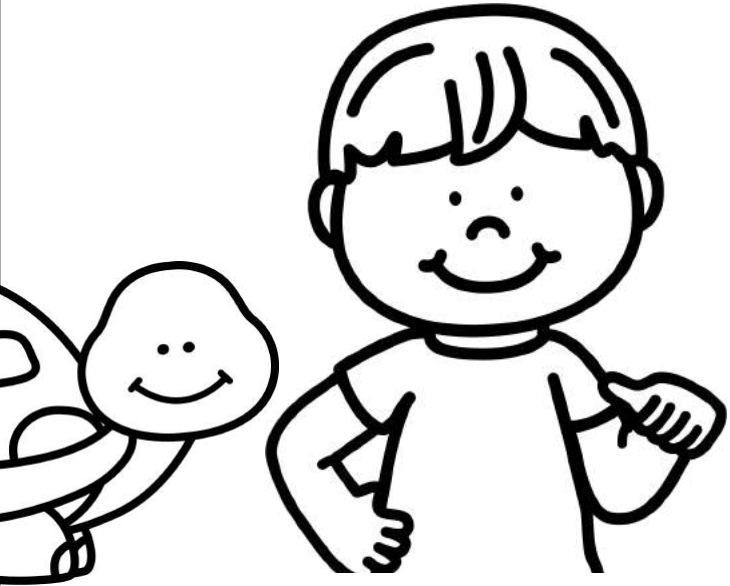
He snapped at a minnow.



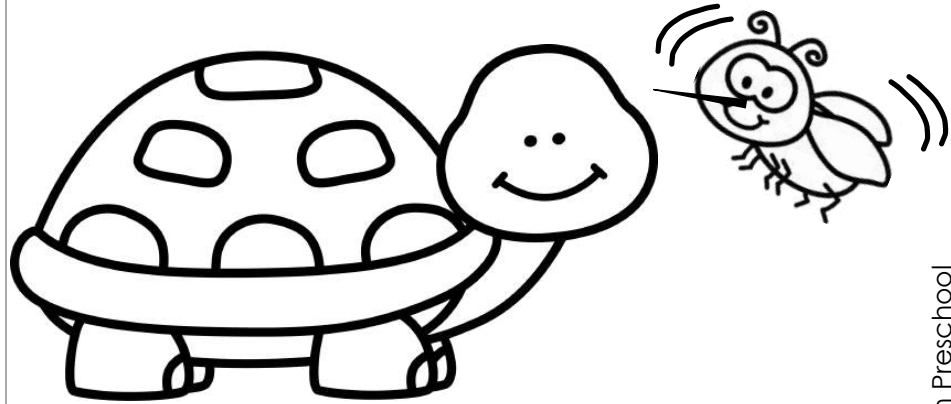
He snapped at a flea.



He snapped at me!



He snapped at a mosquito.



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for teaching Nursery Rhymes:

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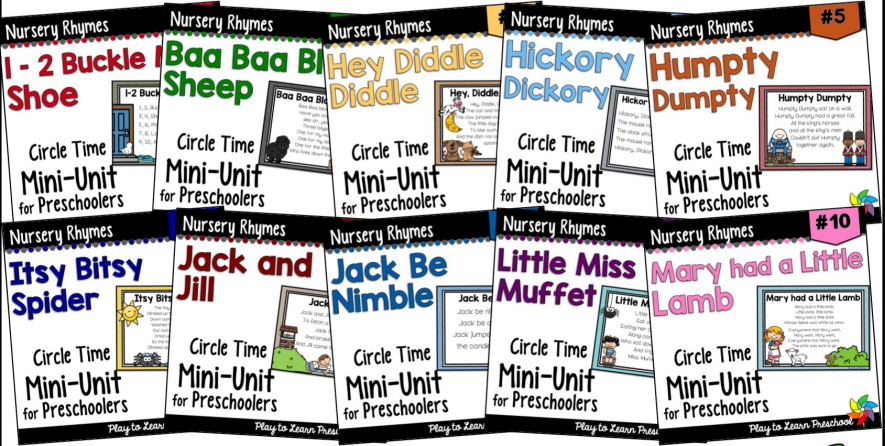
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# Nursery Rhymes

Centers • Circle Time • Bonus!



## for Preschoolers

Play to Learn Preschool



Complete lesson plans for each rhyme, including literacy, math, and more!

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