

Beyond the Book Activities

Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Farm By Joy Cowley

Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
 - Student aid
 - Special education and grade repetition
 - Teacher related costs
 - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

Supplies Needed

Activity 1

- Toilet paper rolls or plastic cups
- Straws
- Blue paint
- Paper plates
- Newspaper
- Paper

Activity 2

- String
- Notecards

Activity 3

- White paper
- Crayons
- Glue
- Scissors

Activity 4

- Clear plastic cup
- Cotton balls
- Notecards

***Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

Activity 1: Bubbles

Supplies you'll need: Small plastic cups or toilet paper rolls, straws, blue paint, paper plates, white paper and newspaper

Directions:

- Put newspaper down on your work surface.
- Give your child a piece of white paper.
- Put small amounts of blue paint on a paper plate.
- Instruct your child to turn the plastic cups upside down in the paint. This will make a round bubble shape on their white piece of paper.
 - Repeat with different size shapes, i.e. toilet paper rolls, straws, etc.

Activity 2: In the Tub

Supplies you'll need: String and number cards 1-6 (numbers written on notecards work great)

Directions:

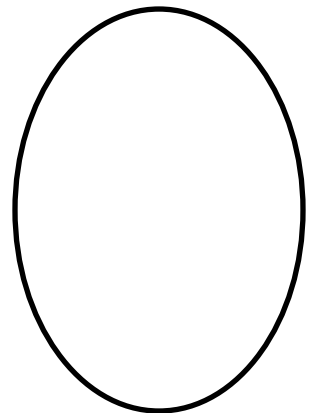
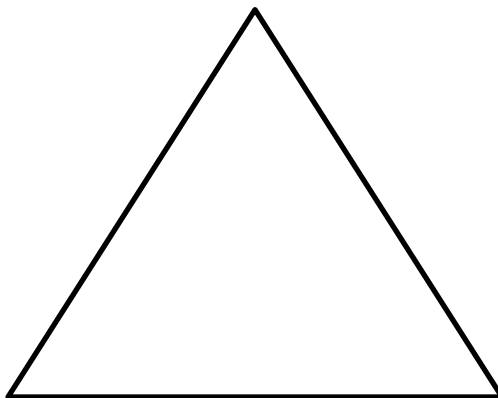
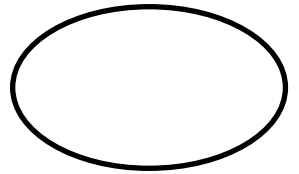
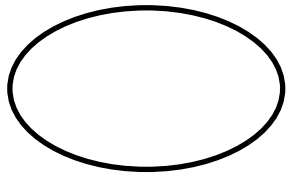
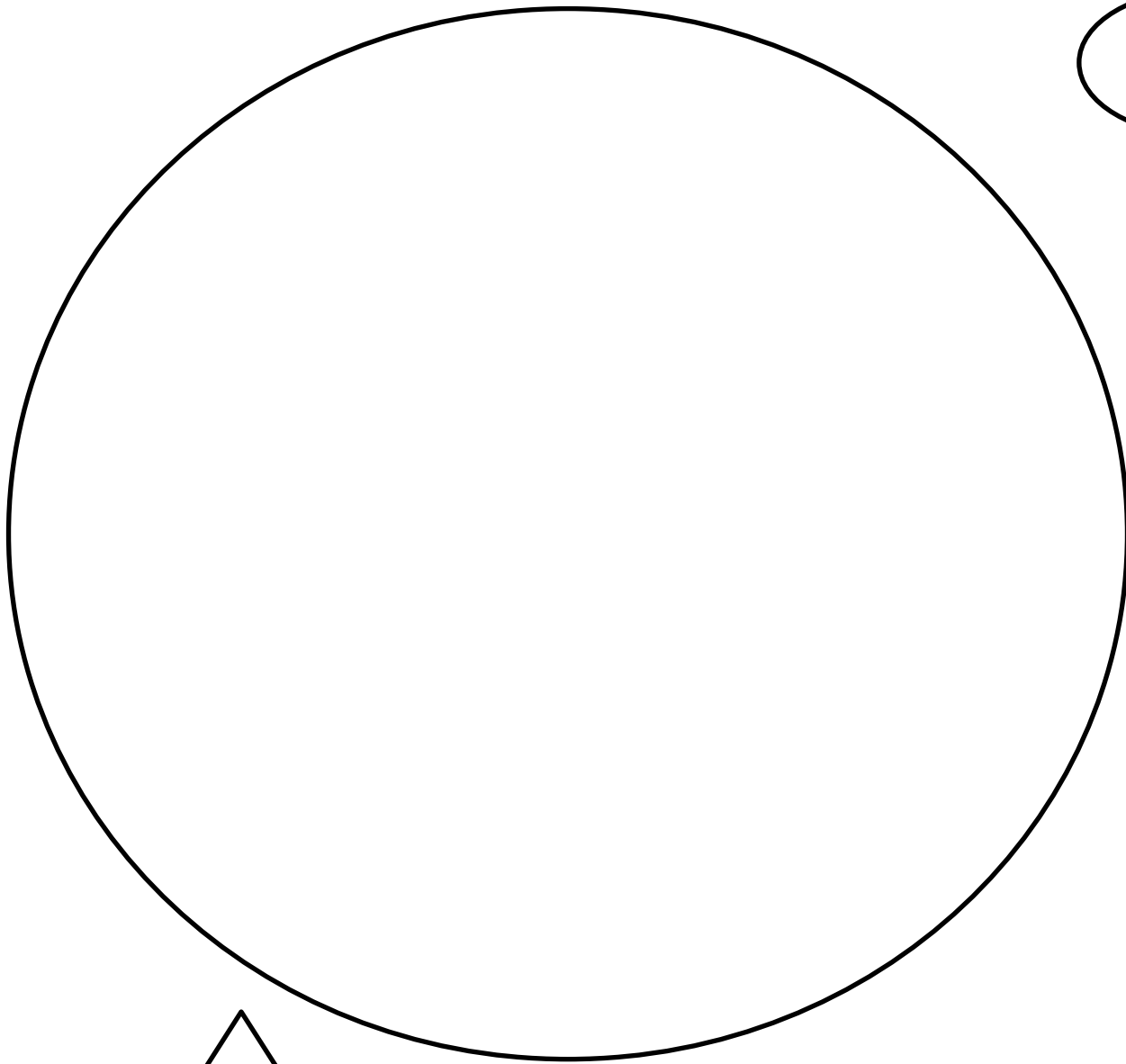
- Take a picture walk through the book and discuss what animals are in the tub.
- Lay the string out on the floor in a circle, and pretend it is the scrub tub.
- Using the number cards, have your child pick a number card.
- Have your child identify the number on the card.
- Then, have your child get in the "tub."
- Discuss who got in first, next and last. NOTE: If several children are not available for this activity you could use stuffed animals or other favorite children toys.

Activity 3: Triangles

Supplies you'll need: White paper (2 pieces), crayons, glue and scissors

Directions:

- Have your child look at the cover of the book and discuss the shapes in the animals' faces. Examples, the duck's beak looks like a triangle or the pig's ears could be triangles.
- On a sheet of white paper trace the shapes - 1 large circle, 1 medium oval, 2 small ovals and 2 triangles.
- Have your child color the shapes on the sheet.
- Have your child cut out the shapes and then place them to look like the face of a pig.
- Have your child glue their shapes down on the remaining sheet of paper.



Activity 4: Bubbles in the Tub

Supplies you'll need: Clear plastic cups, cotton balls and number cards 1-6

Directions:

- Show your child the page in the book where the tub is empty.
- Point out how on the next page the tub is full of bubbles and a cow.
- Give your child one of the number cards and an empty, clear cup.
- Using plastic cups as “scrub tubs” and cotton balls as “bubbles,” have your child fill a “tub with bubbles.” Direct them to put the correct number of “bubbles,” according to their number cards, in their “tubs.”
- Once complete, you can dump out the “bubbles” and pick a new number card to play again.