

Beyond the Book Activities

Corduroy By Don Freeman

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

- None

Activity 2

- Teddy bear
- Markers/crayons/pens
- Paper

Activity 3

- Gummy bears
- Pennies

Activity 4

- Velcro
- Assorted buttons
- Numbered cards (1-5)

Activity 5

- Assorted buttons
- Ice cube tray

Activity 6

- Paper
- Crayons
- Gummy bears

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

Activity 1: Bear Finger Play

Directions: Practice this finger play with your child multiple times over many days. As you become familiar with it, add in simple actions.

“Bear Finger Play”

Author unknown

Here is a cave. (Bend fingers on one hand)

Inside is a bear. (Put thumb inside fingers)

Now he comes out
To get some fresh air. (Pop out thumb)

He stays out all summer
In sunshine and heat.
He hunts in the forest
For berries to eat. (Move thumb in a circle)

When snow starts to fall
He hurries inside
His warm little cave
And there he will hide. (Put thumb inside fingers)

Activity 2: Bear Facts

Supplies you’ll need: Teddy bear, marker/crayons/pens, paper

Directions:

- Hold up the teddy bear.
- Explain that you are going to pass the teddy bear to your child when it is their turn to talk. Ask your child to be polite to the person speaking. If they do not have the bear they should quietly wait for their turn to talk.
- Ask your child to tell something they know about bears. For example: They have four legs, they have claws, they have fur, etc. Then pass the bear to your child and let them answer.
- Record the child’s answer on paper. Then pass the bear to someone else if there is more than one child.
- Talk together to see what else could be added.

Activity 3: The Gummy Bear Game

Supplies you'll need: Gummy bear song (provided), gummy bears, 5 pennies (for each child)

Directions:

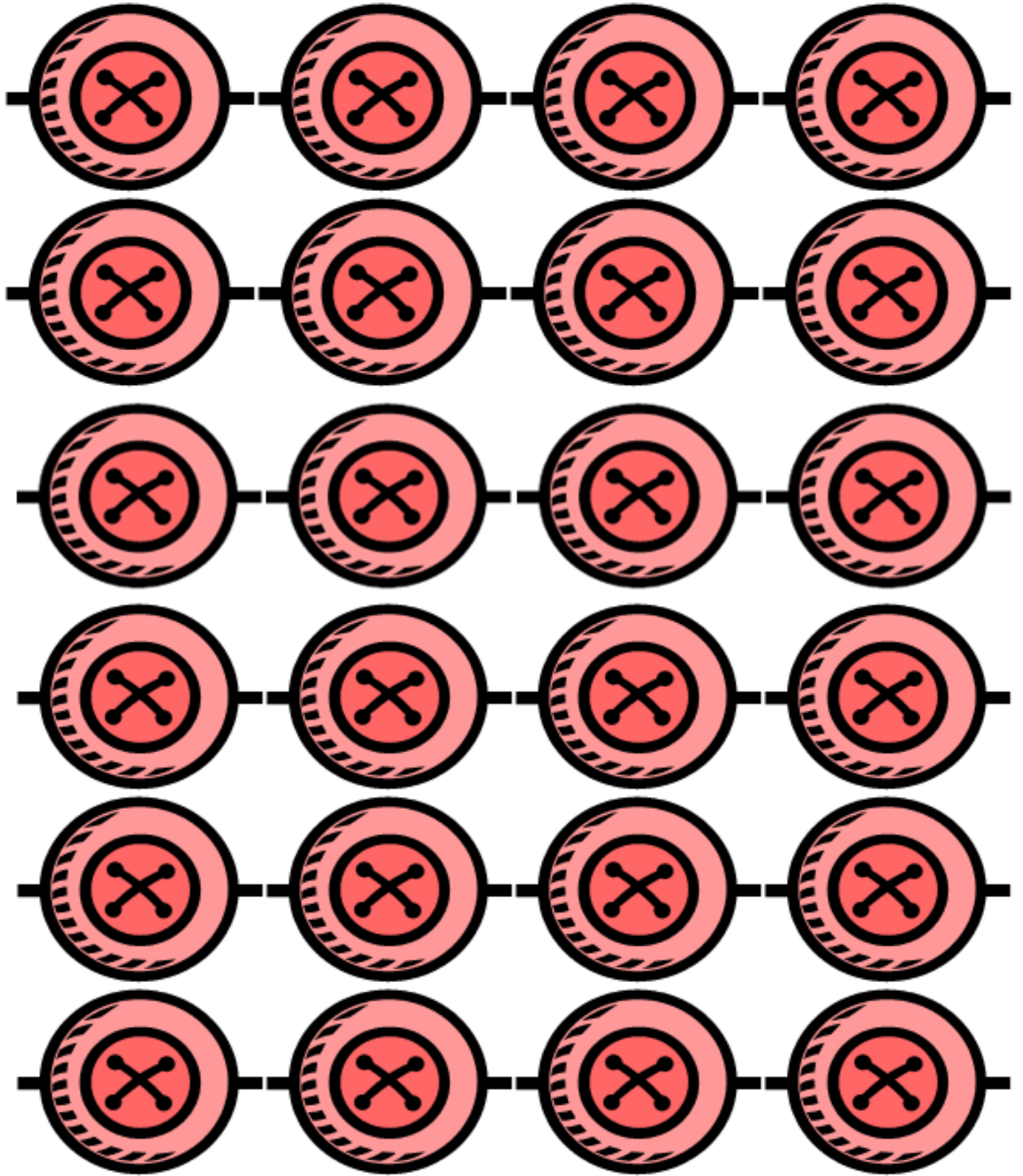
- You will be the shopkeeper. Have your child pretend to come and purchase gummy bears.
- Model the song written below to the child by singing or speaking the words:
 - “Down at the candy store, what did I see? Five little gummy bears smiling at me. Along came (child’s name) with a penny one day. He/she bought a (color) one and took it away.”
- Then give your child five pennies
- Put five gummy bears on the table, replenish after your child takes gummy bears.
- Sing the song again with the child using their pennies to “buy” gummy bears.

Activity 4: Buttons and Bears

Supplies you'll need: Bear template (provided), assorted buttons, Velcro, numbered cards (1-5)

Directions:

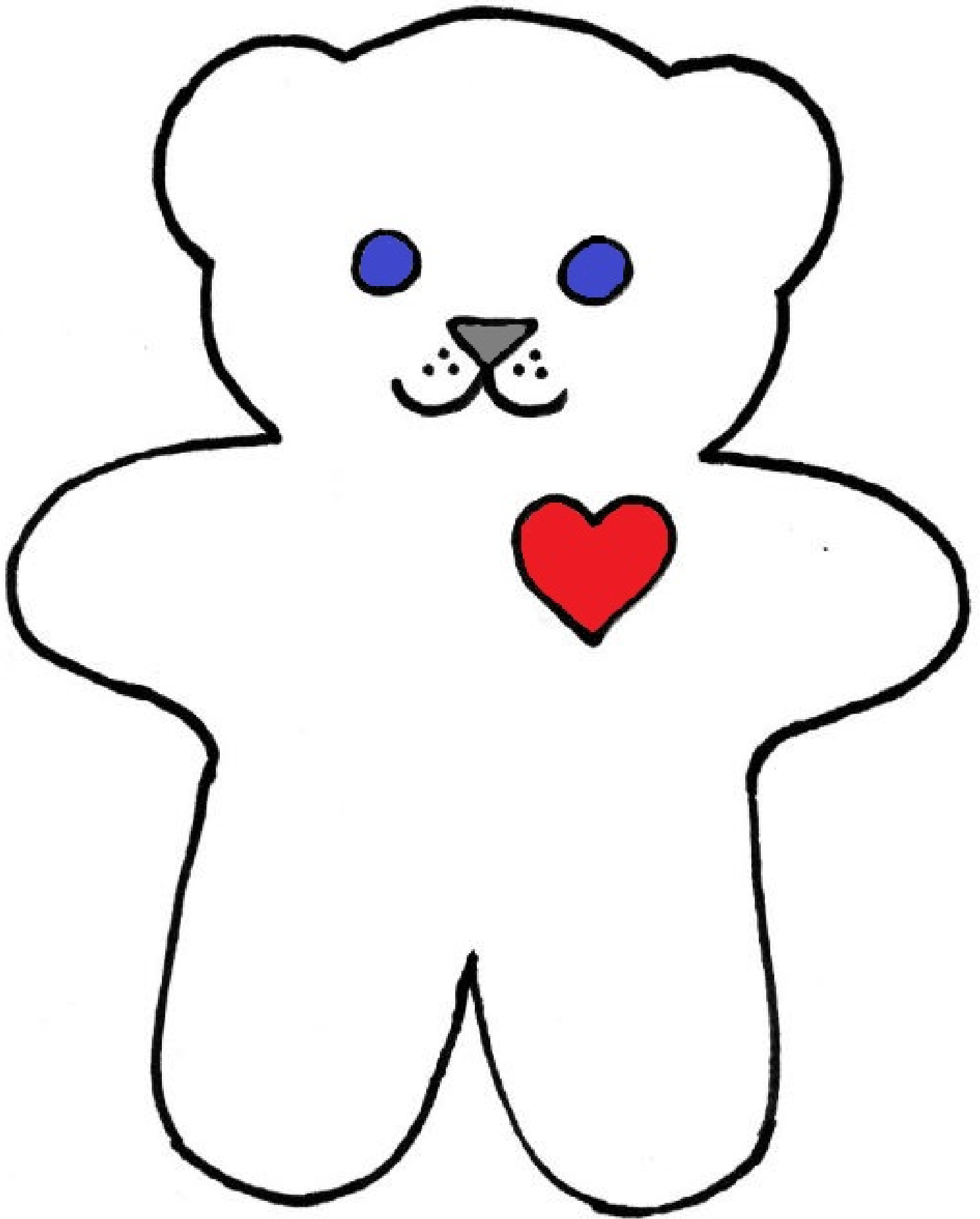
- Adhere one side of Velcro to the back of each button and the other side to the bear template.
- Put the number cards into a stack.
- Have your child pick a number card from the stack.
- Ask your child to identify the number, count out that number of buttons and then attach them to the bear’s belly.
- Count (out loud) the buttons to make sure your child placed the correct amount.
- Continue playing.



Uniting people and resources to improve lives and strengthen communities in southwest Minnesota.

United Way
of Southwest Minnesota





Uniting people and resources to improve lives and strengthen communities in southwest Minnesota.

United Way
of Southwest Minnesota



Activity 5: Sorting Buttons

Supplies you'll need: Ice cube tray, assorted buttons

Directions:

- Show your child the assortment of buttons.
- Explain how things can be sorted based on various factors. Ask your child to sort the buttons in various ways (size, shape, color, number of holes, etc.).

Activity 6: Gummy Bears Count & Sort

Supplies you'll need: Paper, crayons, gummy bears

Directions:

- Take a sheet of paper and divide it into four sections.
- Have your child color each section a different color.
- Give your child a handful of gummy bears.
- Explain to your child that they are going to sort their gummy bears by color and give them time to sort.
- Once they are finished, have them count how many gummy bears they have of each color and print the number in the appropriate section.

Other Activity Ideas

***Picture Walk** - Explain that this is a book about a little teddy bear that loses something. Then take your child on a picture walk through the book and challenge them to look carefully at the pictures and try to figure out what Corduroy lost.

***Make Predictions** – Have your child make predictions about whether or not Corduroy will find what he has lost.