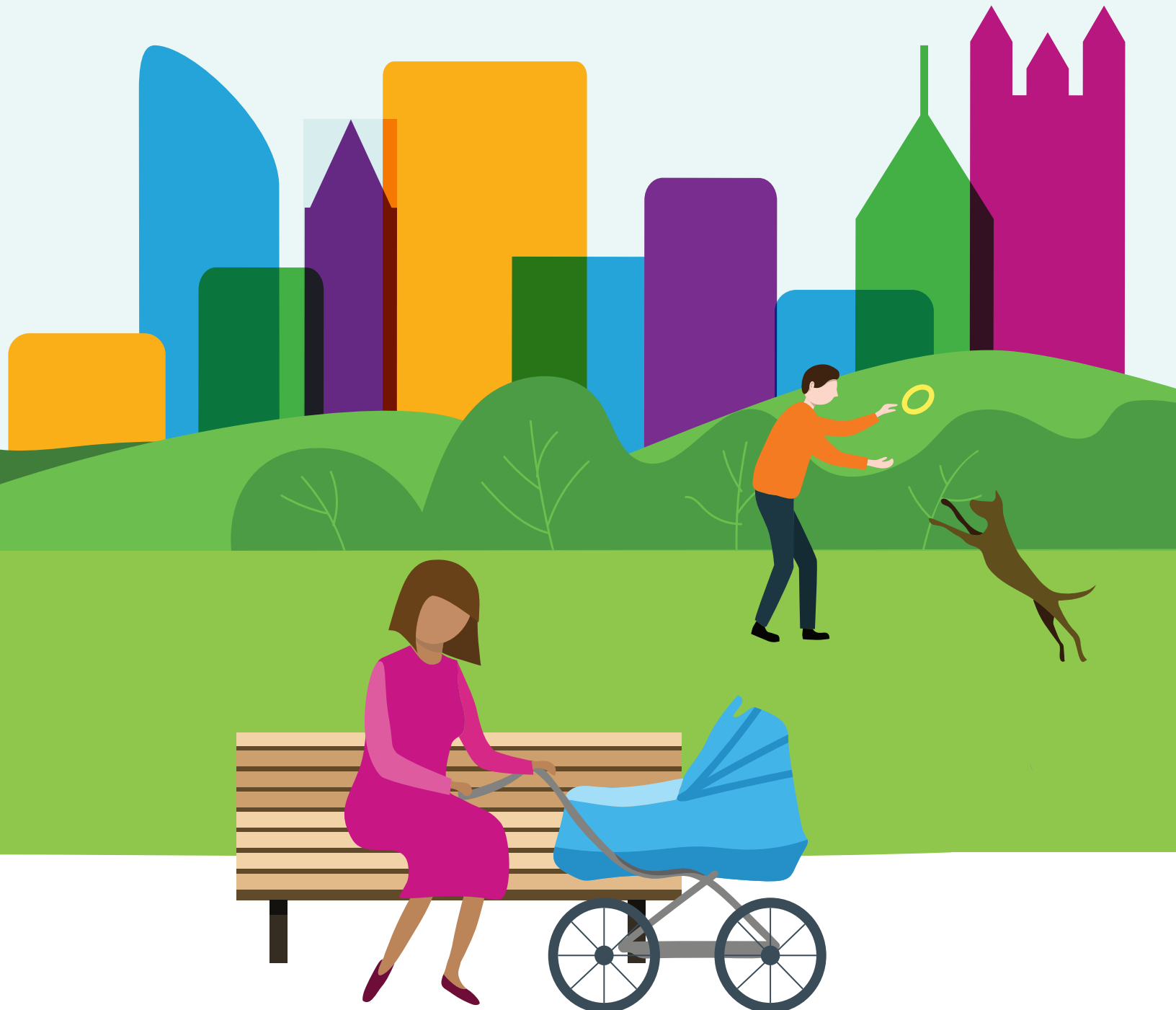




Talk & Play with Words

An Activity Book: Volume II



About this book

This activity book is designed to build on your child's natural curiosity to grow vocabulary.

The words and definitions will help you talk about your surroundings. Try some of the fun activities and tips created by Buzzword Pittsburgh partners to explain the meaning of the words and connect them to your child's experiences. Pick a different vocabulary word every few days. Use it in everyday conversation, and encourage your child to use it too.



Who Are We?

Buzzword Pittsburgh excites children and families as they experience the words that are all around them. Through talk and play about math, science, and art, young children will expand their vocabularies and conversation skills. The program engages families and community organizations in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood and the greater community.

The Buzzword Pittsburgh collaborative consists of six partner organizations with expertise in the arts and sciences. These partners provide interactive learning opportunities that encourage imagination, investigation, creation, and reflection. This initiative is supported by The Heinz Endowments and PNC Grow Up Great®.

For more information, visit
Buzzwordpgh.org



Conduct

To act as the leader or director



Activity

Make a conductor's baton by attaching some felt or fabric to the end of a wooden stick or paper towel roll. Now that your baton is ready, each person will take turns conducting the group. Play one of your favorite songs and start by choosing one person to lead the group in singing the song. The Conductors's job is to keep the beat and lead everyone in the song. Then stop the music, choose another conductor, and repeat until everyone has a turn conducting.

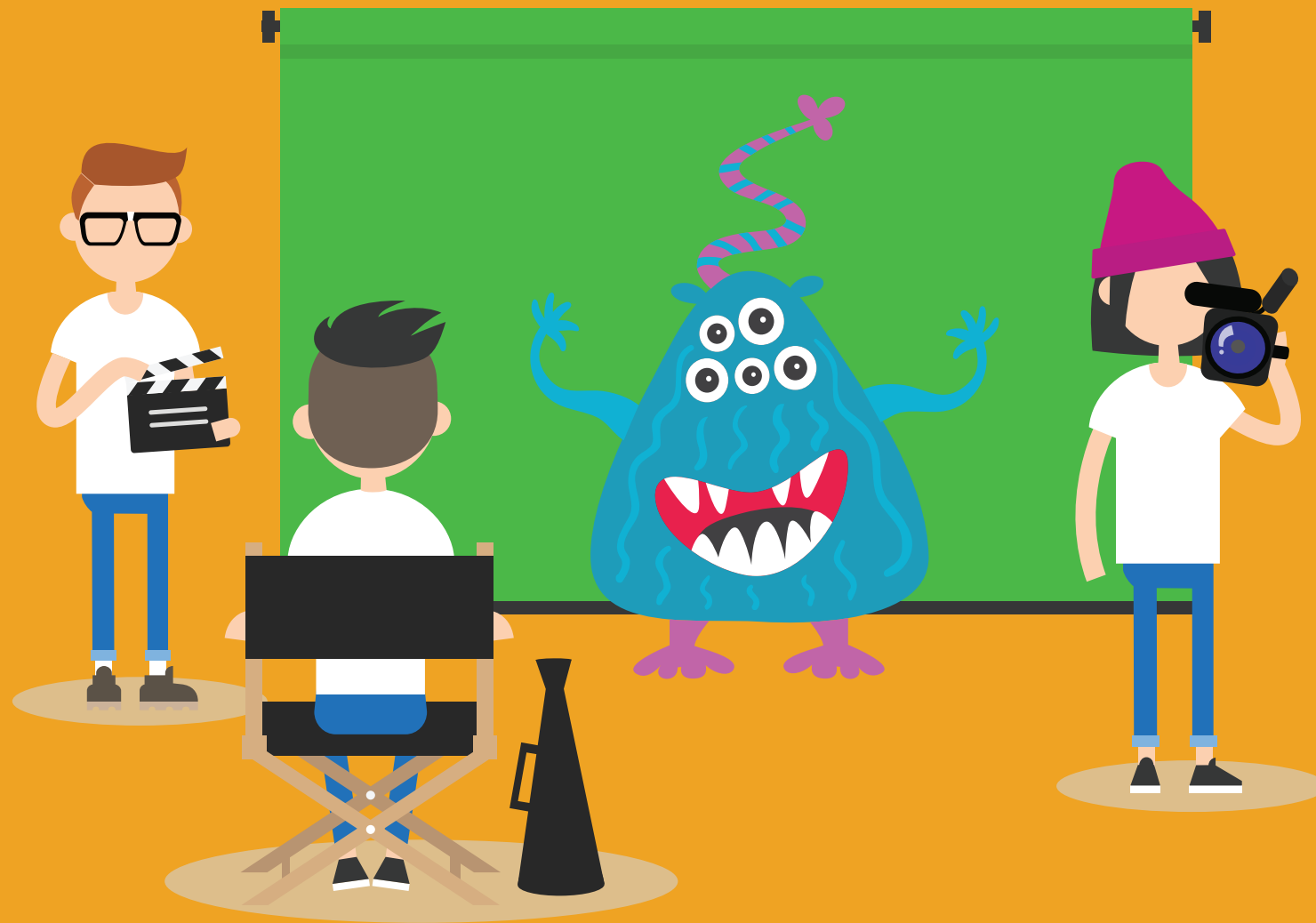
Family Tip!

Conducting is another way of using Call & Response, a great strategy for practicing new words and sounds. Families, you should start as the conductor/leader, sing new words in a musical phrase and have your little ones repeat. Then, your children can conduct/lead another phrase or word.



Creature

An imaginary being

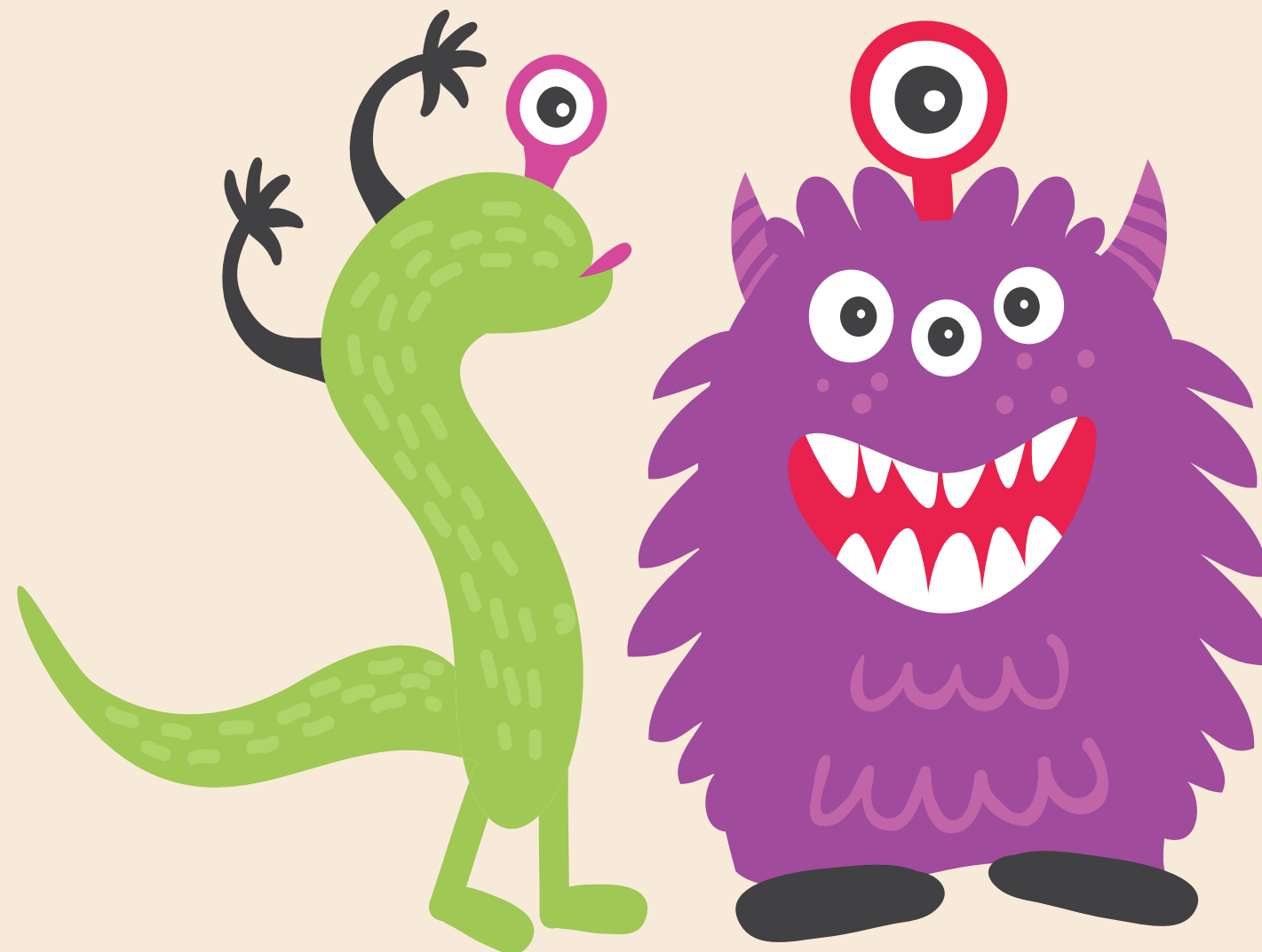


Activity

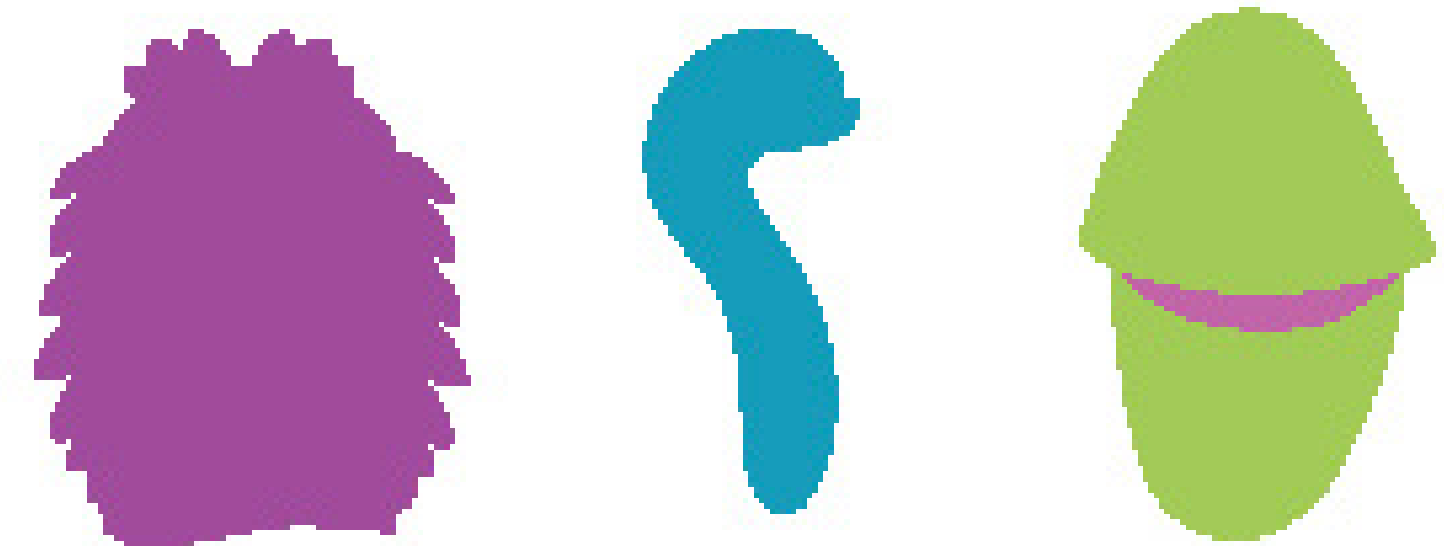
Use your imagination and the included stickers to create your own creature.

Family Tip!

Ask your child open ended questions about the creature they have created. How does your creature move around? What does the creature sound like? What does the creature eat?



Creature Features!



Garden

A place where plants, flowers, fruits,
and vegetables are grown



Activity

Take a walk through your neighborhood and visit the different gardens. Use the color scavenger hunt below to find the different colors within the garden you visit.

Family Tip!

There are plenty of gardens to visit around Pittsburgh. The Shiloh, Faison, and YMCA gardens are just a few located in the Homewood Neighborhoods. Take a trip to the gardens in your neighborhood and take some time to explore the different plants located there. Make a game out of the trip by trying to find all the colors of the rainbow during your exploration.



Color

Scavenger Hunt



Gust

A short, sudden, strong blast of wind



Activity

Color a blank piece of paper and then use these instructions on folding the paper into a fan. The fan can then be used to make gusts!

Family Tip!

Take your child out on a walk with their fan and find things along the way that can be moved by a gust of wind. Try blowing leaves, grass, flowers, rocks, sticks, and anything else that comes across your path. If you get hot along the way, don't forget to use the fan to give yourself a gust of wind to cool off.



Insomnia

The difficulty in falling or staying asleep



Activity

Help your child understand insomnia by playing this silly game. First, everyone pretends to be asleep; closed eyes, snoring sounds, etc. Then suddenly make a loud noise or start playing music very loudly to wake everyone up. Repeat this giving more sleep time to really surprise them. You can also take turns being the person to make the noise or start the music.

Family Tip!

Lullabies are scientifically proven to lull babies to sleep, stimulate language and cognitive development, as well as strengthen the bond between a caregiver and child.



Map

A drawing of a particular area such as a city, a country, or a continent that helps people get around



Activity

Draw through the maze to find fun activities in Pittsburgh. First stop - the Carnegie Library of Homewood. Second stop - Frick Environmental Center. Third stop - Pittsburgh Zoo. Fourth stop - a performance in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. Fifth stop - Carnegie Science Center. Sixth stop - Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Seventh stop - Swimming pool.

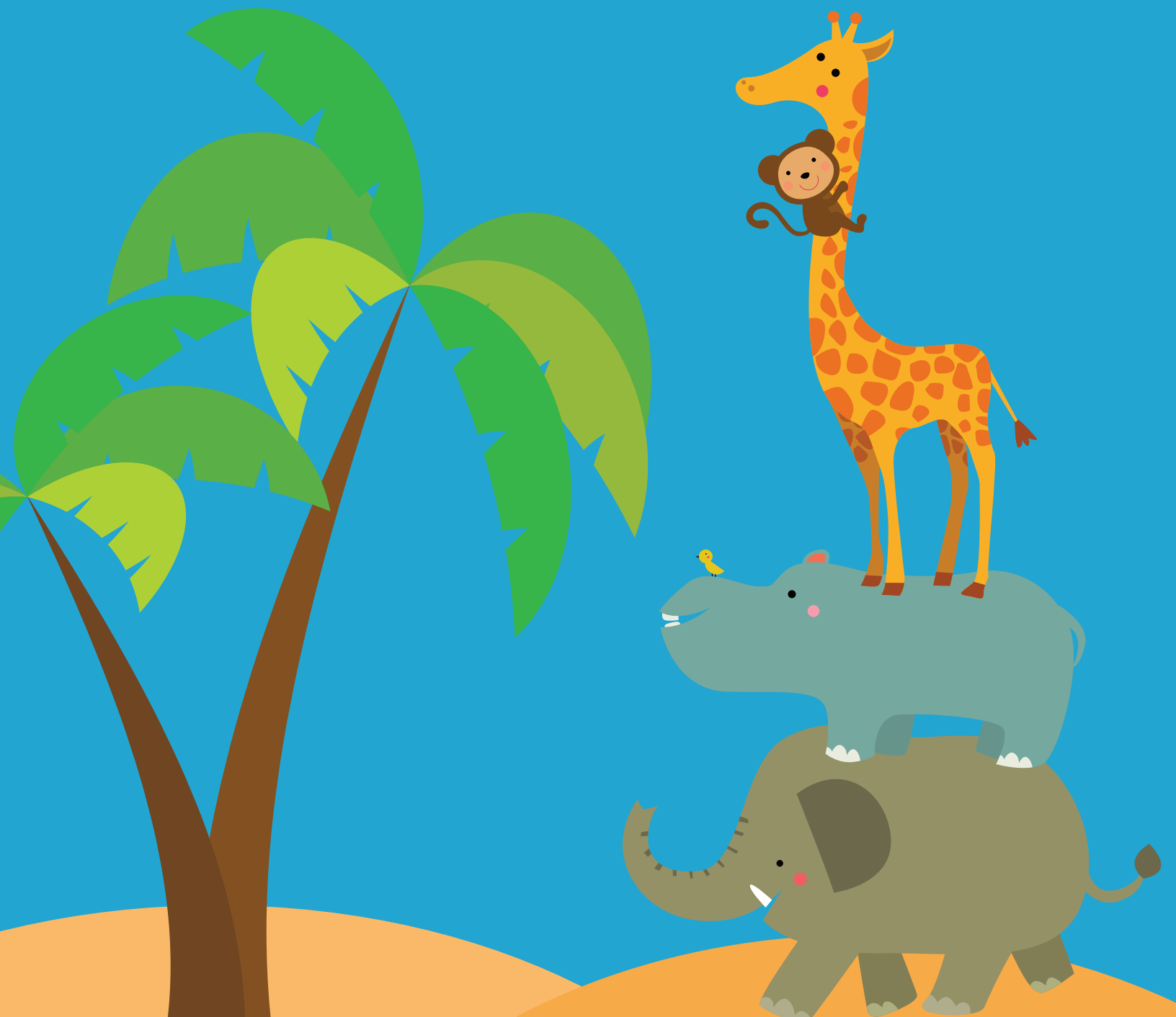
Family Tip!

Talk with your child about the different images below and what they represent. Determine which places they would like to go and why. Let's see how many places we can discover on the map of Pittsburgh.



Measure

A way to find out the exact size or amount of something by using a tool or by comparing it with another object



Activity

Measuring can be done with both standard and non-standard measuring tools. An early learner can obtain the concept of measuring and practice "counting" through non-standard measurement at home.

Find an object in your home that can be moved around easily (i.e. a pencil, shoe, toothbrush, stuffed animal, book). Work with your child to lay the measuring tool against the object that you are measuring, mark the end of each full length measurement of the object with your finger, and count aloud until the object is measured from bottom to top. Start by measuring small objects and build to larger objects. Challenge your child to find as many objects that are five full lengths of your measuring tool as they can.

Family Tip!

Early learners will not be perfect in their measuring technique, and that is okay. With imperfect measuring, children will gain math skills by counting-on and forming comparisons of the objects measured. A song to remember the way to measure with non-standard tools is the following:

(To the tune of "Row Your Boat")
Measure, measure with your tool
Match the ends up straight
Mark with your finger, count one more
Repeat, you're doing great!



Melody

A group of musical notes that make a pleasing pattern or song



Activity

Practice singing the melody of your favorite song. Then add movements to show what the song is about. You can use your body to create melody too. You can also change the lyrics of the song. For example, "Old Mac Donald had a Farm" becomes "Old MacDonald had a BAND" to practice the names of musical instruments.

Family Tip!

Melody and musical phrasing are great ways to learn and remember new words and their meanings. Long words become easier to say and remember when a melody or musical phrase is used.



Miniature

Something that is very, very small



Activity

Use recycled materials (e.g., toilet paper tubes, scrap paper, rinsed plastic containers) to make a sculpture that is a miniature copy of something you see in real life. It could be something outside, like a tree, or something inside, like a chair. Rip, cut, or bend materials to create the shapes you imagine. Fold, glue, tape, or tie your materials together so they can stay in place. Finally, use crayons, colored pencils, or markers to add details to your sculpture to make it look even more like a miniature version of what you see.

Family Tip!

While making your structure is the perfect time to explore the different materials you are using. Ask your child about the texture of a material; is it smooth or soft? Ask them how the plastic bends; is it easy or hard? Ask them if something is firm or flimsy. You can think of other questions too!



Pattern

Shapes and colors that repeat



Activity

Patterns can be found all around us in dance, sounds, and visual patterns. Some animals have patterns on their skin/fur to help them blend in to their surroundings.

Select a visual pattern in your home. Discuss what the repeating shapes and colors are in the pattern. Give your child paper and coloring tools and encourage them to recreate the pattern onto the paper. When your early learner is finished, tape their pattern to the original object to compare. Extend the activity by creating a similar paper pattern yourself and encourage your child to find the matching object with the pattern in your home.

Family Tip!

Create different shapes on white paper for your child to color patterns on. The various shapes will encourage your child to think about how the edges would match up with the original pattern, as well as expose them to shapes they may never have interacted with before (i.e. hexagon, trapezoid, pentagon).



Relationship

The way two people or things are connected

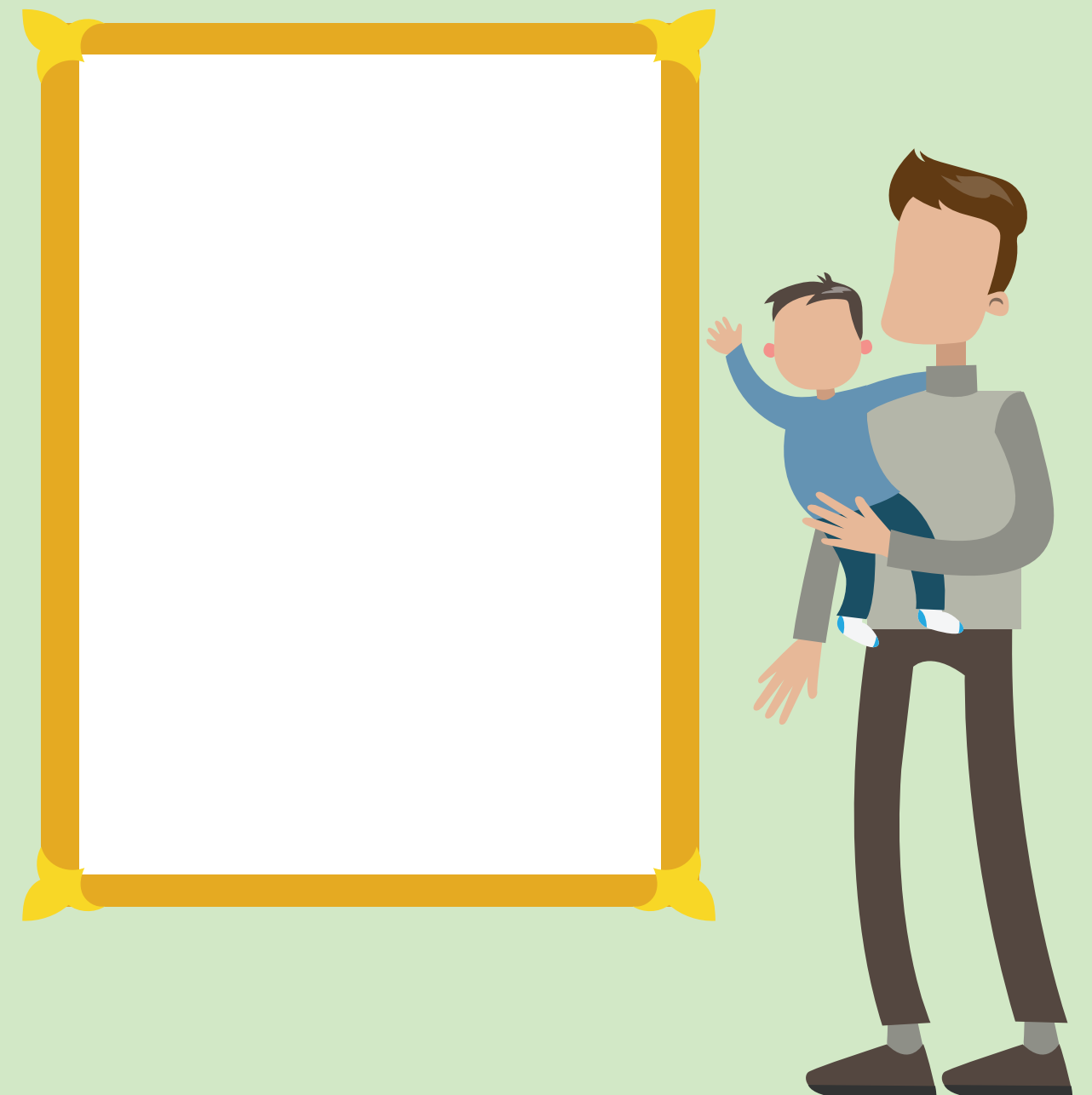


Activity

Draw yourself with someone or something that you have a relationship with.

Family Tip!

Discuss relationships with your child. Relationships can be between people places and things. Look outside and see what relationships you can find in nature.



Rhythm

A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound



Activity

Create a drum out of recycled materials found at home. Find something in your house with a cylinder shape which has a cap on it to close it, such as a coffee can, an ice cream tub, or a tin can. Clean the inside. Seal the lid with tape or glue. Then, decorate the instrument. When you're done, practice creating rhythms as a family!

Family Tip!

A great way to introduce rhythm to young children is by having them clap the syllables of their own name. Add different instruments and have your child get up and dance to the rhythm.



Shadow

A dark shape that is created when a light shines on an object



Activity

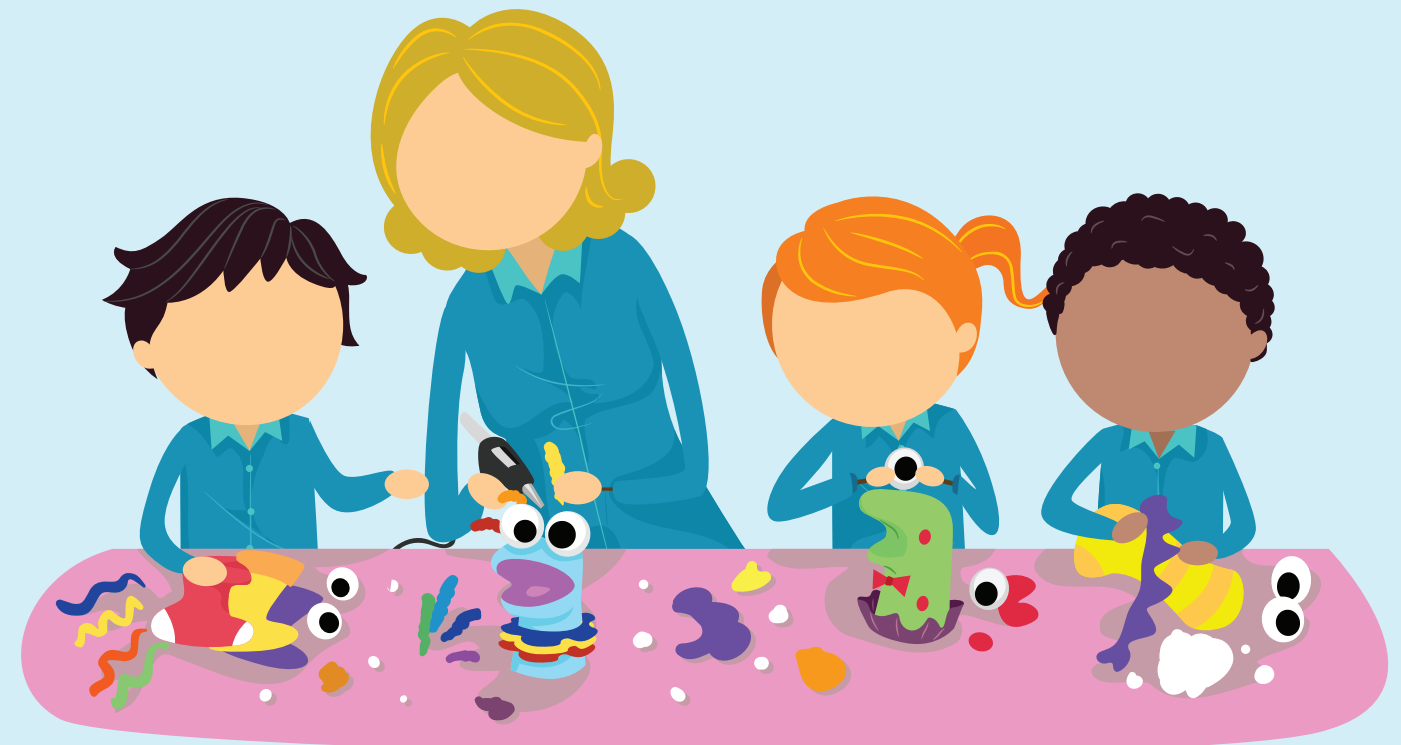
Work together to make a shadow puppet. Choose a material that is firm but flexible (e.g., cardstock, craft foam) that you will be able to shape and poke holes in, either with your fingers, pencils, scissors, or a hole punch.

You can turn your puppet into something that looks like something that you know, like an animal or a person, or it can just be a design that has holes and shapes cut out.

Once you have enough openings to allow light to pass through, hold your material up to a light source, changing the angle of your material to watch light pass through the holes and make shadows where the solid parts of the material are left. Try holding your shadow puppet up to a window or take it outside to use the sun as the light source, or use a light from inside, like a lamp or a flashlight, to make shadows.

Family Tip!

Choose a shadow in a familiar place (e.g., a swingset in a park, a windowsill at home) where you can observe sunlight casting a shadow. Use chalk, string, tape, crayon, etc., to mark the movement of the shadow as time passes. Talk about the movement of the earth and the sun and notice together how and when the shadows move on different days and even during different seasons.



Shrink

To become smaller



Activity

Water can shrink in volume over time due to evaporation. To explore this over an extended period of time, use puddles from rainfall or create your own puddles to demonstrate the word shrink. On a sunny day, find or create a water puddle on a sidewalk or paved area. Have your child use chalk to outline the puddle. If it is a sunny day, return to the puddle with your child every hour and trace the new outline of the puddle. When the puddle dries completely, your child will be able to see how the water evaporated and the puddle shrank in size until it was gone.

Family Tip!

If you do not have a day to dedicate to this activity, make your own puddle of water on a hot, sunny day and have your child trace the outline of the water every few minutes. The water will evaporate quickly in warmer weather and if you create a smaller puddle/splash of water. Transform your shrinking puddle into art by using a different chalk color for each trace.



Symmetrical

When one side of something is the same as the other side



Activity

Find the difference! Look at the two pictures and circle 10 things that are wrong on the lefthand side.

Family Tip!

Play the mirror game! Have your child copy your movements like they are your reflection. See if they can lead the game too.



Transform

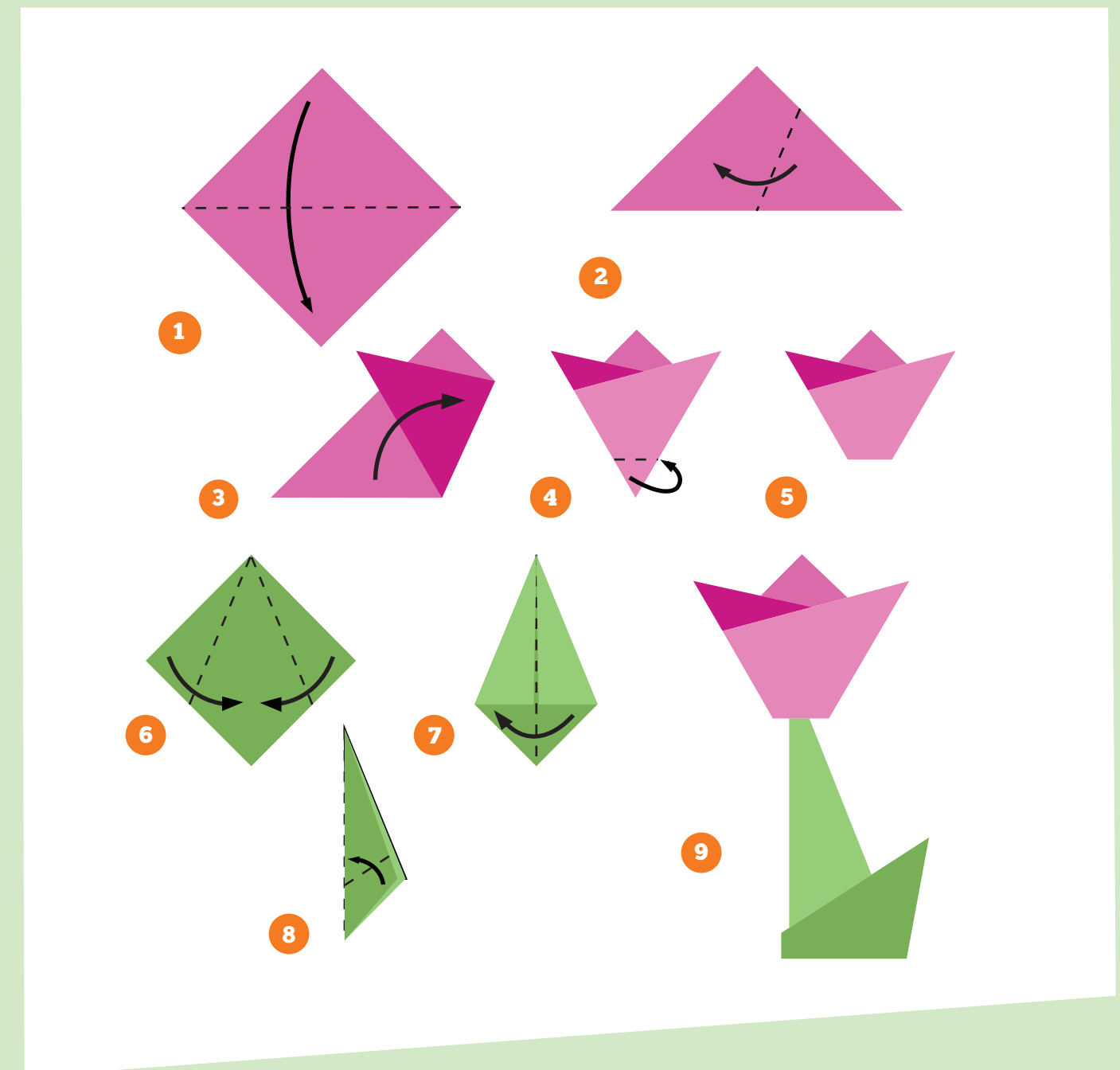
To change the structure or appearance of something

Activity

Transform two colored pieces of paper into a beautiful flower by following the "Origami Instructions" with your child.

Family Tip!

Origami is an art form that helps young children develop hand-eye coordination, sequencing skills, and math reasoning. It also aids in the development of fine motor skills and mental concentration.



Transparent

Something that is clear so you
can see through it, like glass



Activity

Light and paper are the perfect tools to explore transparency! Use your imagination and creativity to draw a masterpiece on a piece of white paper. Then, find a paper plate and use a pair of scissors to cut a large circle in the middle of a paper plate. Glue your masterpiece on the middle of the circle, hang it in a window and VOILA! You have a home-made suncatcher! Take some time to watch the sunlight hit the paper and illuminate the colors. You can even explore which colors glow, and which don't.

Family Tip!

You can experiment with your suncatcher in many ways. Explore different papers, colors, and places for it! You can ask your child about what they notice about their drawing, what colors glow, and even find a place in your home that gets the most sunlight.



Transportation

A means of moving from one place to another

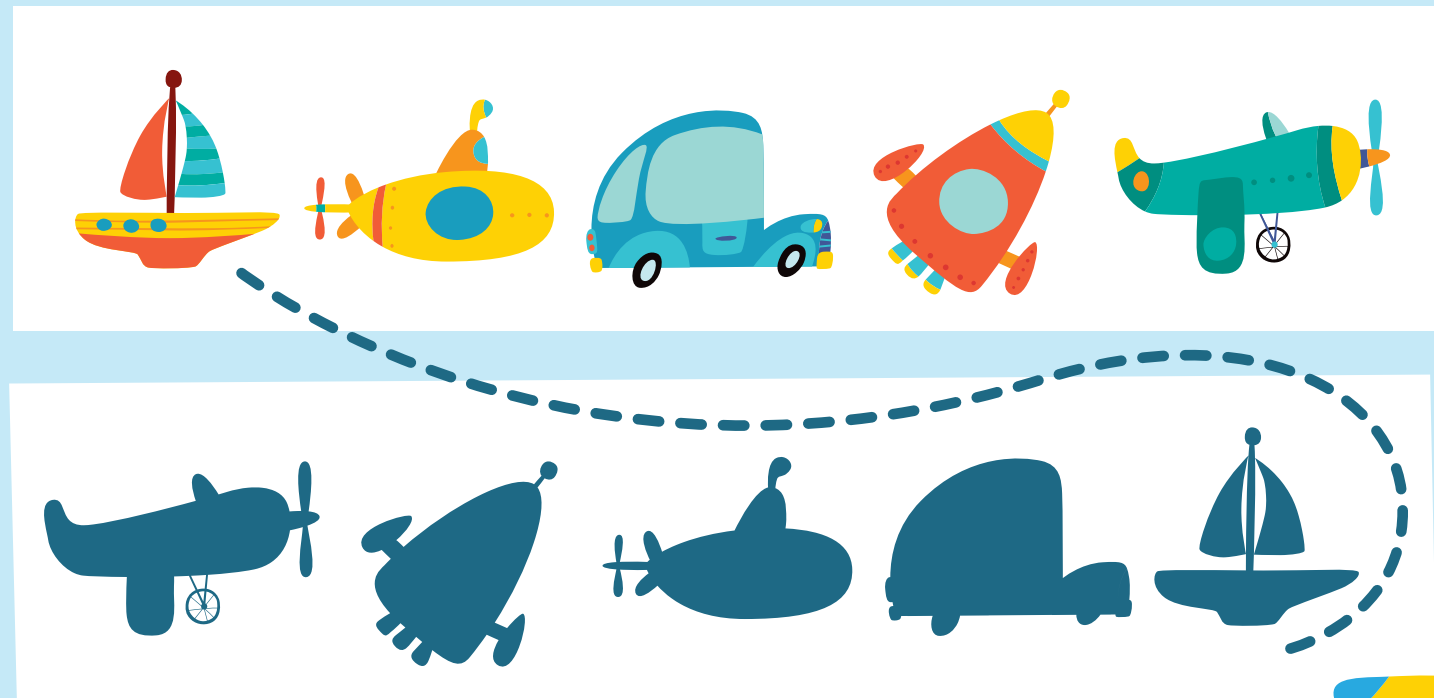


Activity

Match the different forms of transportation with their shadow.

Family Tip!

Our bodies are great way to transport ourselves from place to place. Practice acting out the different ways we can get from place to place. Running, walking, climbing, crawling, lunging.



Vibrant

Lively and full of energy

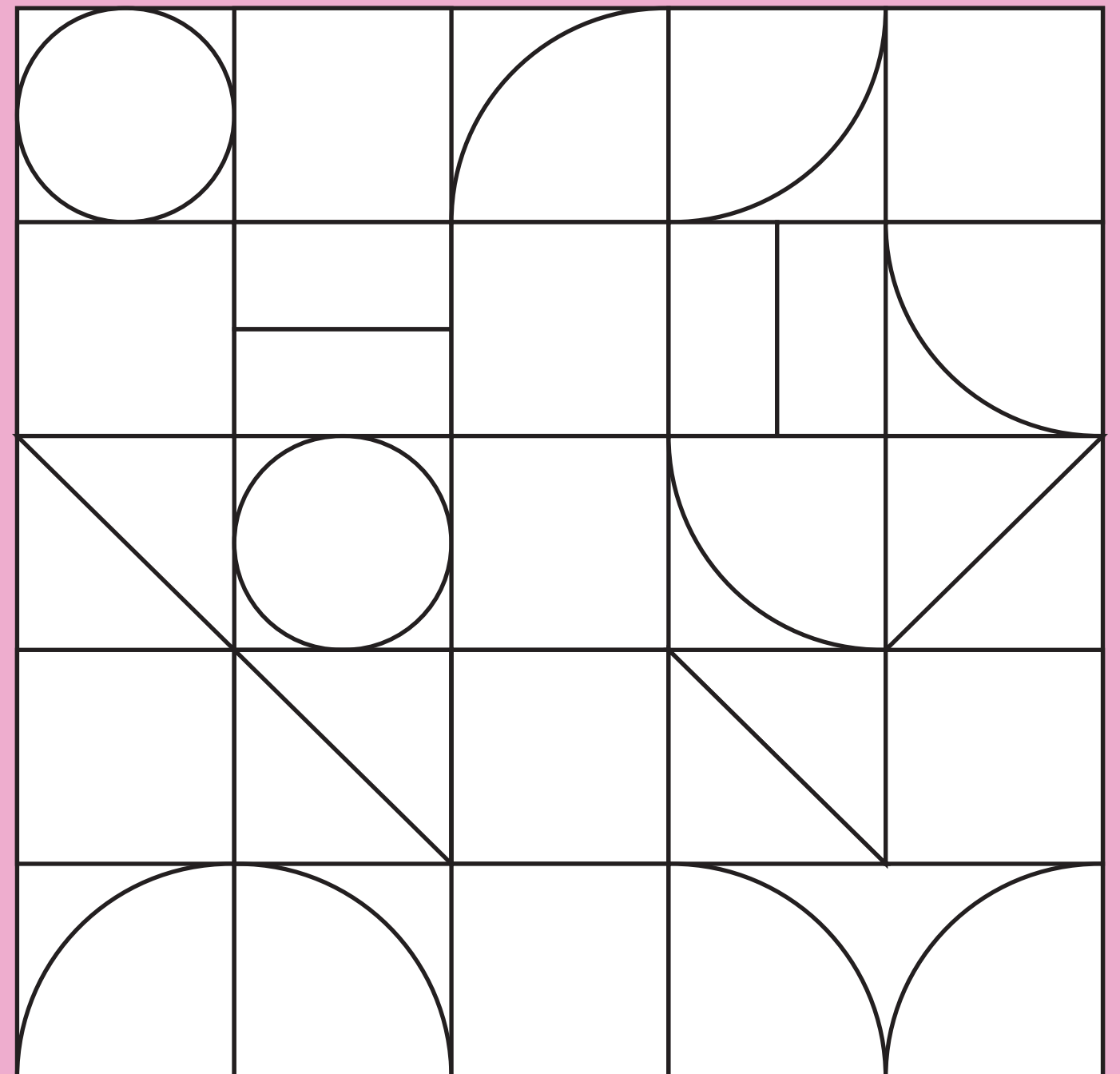


Activity

Use the brightest crayons to color your own vibrant mural with the image below.

Family Tip!

There is so much that is vibrant in our own communities! Take your child to a festival, event, or park with a group of people and find ways to talk about the vibrant atmosphere.



Research Says

From birth to age five years, young children's brains are rapidly developing. During this time, little ones are more open to learning and becoming inspired. Talking with a child helps increase vocabulary development and communication skills needed throughout life.

A child's early vocabulary skills grow in real-life settings through positive interactions and conversations about the world.



Remember the 3 B's

Be Present

Use pictures, words, and definitions to investigate math, science, and art! Engage your child's curiosity by saying new words, repeating them, and explaining their meanings.

Be Playful

Have fun with vocabulary! To make words come to life, you can talk, write, read, play, and sing with your child.

Be Proactive

Explore fun and easy activities that use one word and build upon it. Your child's world will open up – there will always be new words with fresh meanings and exciting ways to apply them daily.



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