



# I'm Ready to Learn Overview of Studies

## *ON THE FARM FALL UNIT Weeks 1-9*

- Week 1: Let's Go to the Farm
- Week 2: New Days on the Farm
- Week 3: A Farm Provides Food
- Week 4: Who Lives on a Farm?
- Week 5: Cows, White Milk & More
- Week 6: Farms Provide Clothes
- Week 7: Goats Will Eat Anything!
- Week 8: Pigs Make Great Bacon
- Week 9: Harvest-Time at Last!

## *AT THE ZOO SPRING UNIT Weeks 19-27*

- Week 19: Elephants Remember Everything!
- Week 20: Giraffes are Very Different!
- Week 21: Hippopotamus Rules the Water
- Week 22: People Who Work with Animals
- Week 23: Bears Live By Themselves
- Week 24: Kangaroos Pack a Pouch
- Week 25: Peacocks are Proud
- Week 26: Monkeys are Curious
- Week 27: Showing Care to Animals

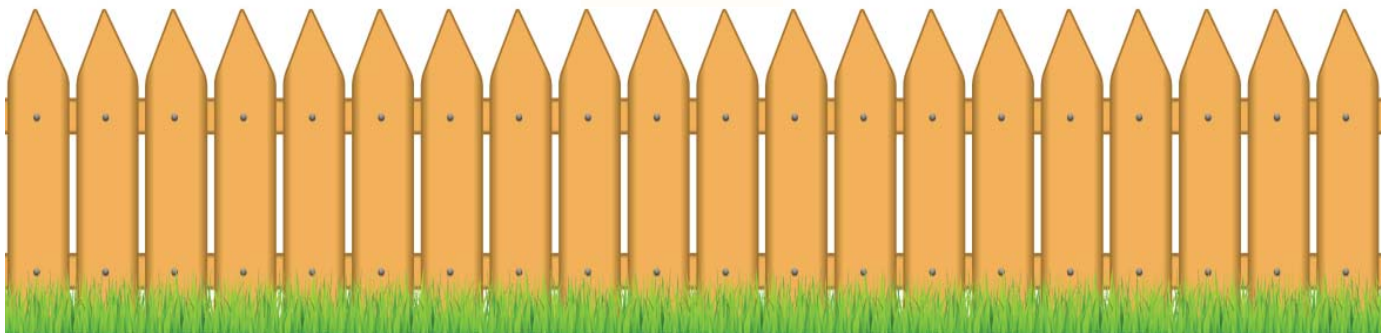
## *AT THE POND WINTER UNIT Weeks 10-18*

- Week 10: Pond Life is Busy
- Week 11: What's in a Pond?
- Week 12: Frogs Everywhere!
- Week 13: Pond Plants
- Week 14: Soar High with a Dragonfly
- Week 15: Swim Like a Fish
- Week 16: Turtles Sit & Enjoy the Sun
- Week 17: Quacking Up at the Pond
- Week 18: Alligators Patrol the Pond



## *IN MY GARDEN SUMMER UNIT Weeks 28-36*

- Week 28: My Own Garden
- Week 29: Flowers Feed Insects & Birds
- Week 30: Bees & Honey for All
- Week 31: Slowpoke Snail
- Week 32: Ladybugs Tend Your Garden, Too
- Week 33: Slithering Snakes
- Week 34: Birds Visit the Garden
- Week 35: Caterpillars Start to Change
- Week 36: A Butterfly Emerges



# I'm Ready to Learn On the Farm Unit

It's a great time to "visit" a farm! Help your child travel to the land of moos, clucks and whinnies. Here are some great ideas to help you get ready for the first nine weeks of your year, and create a "ducky" environment to imagine adventures in the country.



## Create a Farm Mural

Create a farm mural on a long strip of paper. You can follow the recommendations on page 124 of "Sing! Play! Create!" although we would recommend that you only draw the scenery in your mural, not the animals. This will give you the opportunity to add the animals to the scene as you study them throughout the next few weeks. A barn to put in the scene is scheduled as a craft in Week 1.

## Set up a Corral

You could also recruit your little helper to help you create a farmyard in an open area at home. Use empty gift wrap rolls for fencing, painting them white, if you'd like. Duct tape will help keep them together. Swim noodles would also work. You can create a large barn on one wall out of paper or a white paper disposable tablecover. Bring stuffed animals into the corral.

## Plan a Visit to a Local Farm

Nothing helps you imagine a place you've never been to -- like heading there! Few children these days get to know what hay smells like when it's warm, or what leather harnesses feel like in your hands, or to hear the flutter of a barn swallow swooping above you. This is the perfect time of year to visit a farm -- you may even want to visit several farms over the next few weeks; dairy farms, chicken farms, apple farms, and produce farms are all excellent places to see how the food we eat gets to our table.



## A Fun Finish!

Finish your year by planning a harvest party, going on a hayride, planning a family pumpkin-buying excursion, or something else (see helps in Week 9). You can build the excitement of this week by keeping it a secret, or by planning it together!

# I'm Ready to Learn - Week 1

## Let's Go to the Farm!



RESOURCES	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
<b>ORAL DISCUSSION</b>				
<b>ALPHABET &amp; PHONICS</b>				
<b>Alphabet &amp; Reading Activities</b>	Play "What an Idea"	Create a Collage Collection with Things on a Farm That Aren't Animals	Play Farm Items Brainstorm	Play Backpack Farm Collection
<b>Internet Helps</b>	Visit a Farm Online			
<b>Make-a-Letter Hands-On Pack</b>		Activity #1	Activity #13	Activity #96 with Various Numbers of Objects
<b>Make-Your-Own Letter-by-Letter Book</b>	Starts Later in the Year.			
<b>MATH SKILLS</b>				
<b>Counting &amp; Math Activities</b>	Fun Times Three	Count to Three Go & See		1-2-3, Touch Your Knee
<b>SCIENCE SKILLS</b>				
<b>Farmer Boy</b>	School Days Pages 1-12	Winter Evening Pages 13-29	Winter Night Pages 30-38	
<b>ART &amp; CREATIVITY</b>				
<b>Art &amp; Creative Activities</b>			Mixed-Up Kids	
<b>The Arts &amp; Crafts Busy Book</b>	Sugar Cube Shapes Page 112 Look Below.	Alphabet Crackers Page 207		Find a Local Farmer's Market to Visit
<b>BIBLE TIME</b>				
<b>My Read &amp; Rhyme Bible Storybk</b>	Read "God Makes a Big World" Pages 3-9	Re-read the Story & Complete Page 10	Re-read the Story & Complete Activity 1 Page 11	Re-read the Story & Complete Activity 2 Page 11
<b>Notes</b>				

### LEARNING TOPICS THIS WEEK:

- Social Topic: What is a Farm?
- Readiness Skill: Sorting
- Math Skill: Counting 1 to 3

### TEACHING TIME STRATEGIES:

- Talk about what a farm is and how it operates.
- One of this week's topics is sorting. Children build vocabulary by understanding new concepts. It is natural for them to develop concepts using a compare-and-contrast strategy. Sorting objects helps young children organize ideas by focusing on an element that qualifies an item for inclusion in a group or disqualifies it. Talking with children about why one picture is included in a group while another is not helps them to categorize, discern differences and similarities, and develop observation skills.
- This week's math activities include opportunities to learn to listen and follow directions, which will help your student develop these practical skills.

### SCIENCE

This week you begin to read "Farmer Boy," which will take you inside the workings of a simple farm. Though some things have changed, many small farms work very much the same.

### ART & CREATIVITY

#### IMPORTANT NOTE: "The Arts & Crafts Busy Book"

Be sure to read the note for this resource from this week's "Art & Creativity Activities" page.

Instructions and supply information for this resource will be listed on the weekly "Art & Creativity Activities" page.

### LIBRARY FOCUS

Try to choose picture books that introduce your child to the farm. Golden Books has a title called "Farm Tales" of classic stories more than 200 pages long that might be fun to look for!

### INTERNET SITES

#### Visit a Farm Online

**Harvest of History:** See how basic farming was done in the past, and how it is done today. Just fabulous! Video clips and more share wonderful information at: <http://www.harvestofhistory.org/>  
**Week 9 - John Deere Storybook:** Shares what different farm machines do in a wonderful little online storybook. Wow!  
[http://www.deere.com/en\\_US/compinfo/kidscorner/johnny.html](http://www.deere.com/en_US/compinfo/kidscorner/johnny.html)

# Week 1 - Alphabet & Reading Activities

## DAY 1

### What an Idea Game

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Talk with your student about how words share ideas. Discuss how the ideas in your mind can be shared with others by using words. Each word means something -- an object, action or idea. We put words together in a sentence. "Let's go get ice cream." Talk about how your student shares ideas:

- in the morning
- when he wants lunch
- when he goes out to play

*Supplies You Need:* None

*Play the Game:*

Challenge your student to complete all the ideas you speak out loud to him or her. They should follow your directions. Phrase them like this:

- I wonder if you can sit in your favorite chair at the table.
- I wonder if you can find something that is blue and square.

Praise them for following directions -- some of them could be silly or elaborate. Continue with several more instructions. Afterwards, talk about how they understood the ideas, and reinforce how words convey meaning, or ideas.

## DAY 2

### Collage Collection

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Talk about what a collage is -- a collection of pictures that are all in the same category. The pictures are all alike in some way.

*Supplies You Need:*

Old magazines - for this collage a "country life" type of magazine would work best

Child-safe scissors

Glue

Large piece of paper or posterboard

*Start the Activity:*

Search for pictures of things you might see on a farm that aren't animals. (If you have trouble finding enough pictures, animals could be included.) Here's some ideas of items on a farm that aren't animals: farmer, hay, grass, tractor, eggs, sun, seeds, barn, garden, pumpkins, apples (and other fruits and veggies), farmhouse, henhouse, fence, etc. When the student finds a picture, have him or

her cut it out and paste it on the large paper or posterboard. Pictures can be added close to each other on the paper. A parent can label the pictures while the student looks on when the collage is complete. When complete, have the student share what each item is and why it is found on a farm.

## DAY 3

### Farm Items Brainstorm

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Challenge your student to share what they have learned about farms by thinking of everything they know might be found on a farm.

*Supplies You Need:* None

*Start the Activity:*

The student should list out everything that might be found on a farm.

## DAY 4

### Backpack Farm Collection

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Share a sense of fun as you explain to the student that he should find items around the house that are a part of farm life and put them in his backpack (or a paper bag).

*Supplies You Need:*

Backpack or paper bag

Items found around the house

*Start the Activity:*

The student should search for items to put in the backpack that are a part of farm life. Encourage them and help them decide what to include. Talk through each item when several items have been collected.



# Week 1 - Counting & Math Activities

## DAY 1

### Fun Time Three

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Your student probably knows how to count to three, but even if not, this is the perfect activity to learn and practice this concept. It also provides practice for students who understand how to count to three. It's also a great chance to practice listening and following directions. Show your student that he or she will need to do everything you say three times, counting 1-2-3 as he or she does so.

*Supplies You Need:* None

#### *Start the Activity:*

Shout out an action word and have your student do it three times, counting as they do. Here's some action words to shout:

- clap
- bounce
- march
- jump
- spin
- kick
- roll
- snuggle
- wave
- tap
- sit down
- punch
- sneeze
- smile
- snap their fingers
- blink
- hug

## DAY 2

### Count to Three, Go and See!

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Your student will have more opportunities to practice doing an action after first counting to three. This time he or she will be on the go. Tell your student that they will need to listen carefully to hear what he or she needs to do.

*Supplies You Need:* None

#### *Start the Activity:*

Shout out a short errand, task or place to go. Instruct the student to first count out loud: 1-2-3! Then the student should complete the instruction you give. Here are some instruction examples:

- turn on a light
- go over your bed
- find your favorite book
- brush your hair
- get a glass of water
- touch your parents' bed
- jump over a toy truck
- stand in the bathtub
- skip around the table

## DAY 4

### 1-2-3, Touch Your Knee

#### *Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Another way to practice counting to three is to count 1-2-3, then make up a rhyme to do after the count. Your student should repeat the rhyme after you say it, then do the action. Rhymes to have your student repeat and do are listed below.

*Supplies You Need:* None

#### *Start the Activity:*

Here are the rhymes for your student to repeat:

- 1-2-3, touch your knee
- 1-2-3, cover your feet
- 1-2-3, cry for me
- 1-2-3, turn a key
- 1-2-3, eat for free
- 1-2-3, buzz like a bee
- 1-2-3, laugh with glee
- 1-2-3, sing for me
- 1-2-3, take a seat
- 1-2-3, run with speed
- 1-2-3, point to a tree
- 1-2-3, make a "V"
- 1-2-3, find something green
- 1-2-3, name a sea
- 1-2-3, play hide and seek



# Week 1 - Art & Creative Activities

## DAY 3

### Mixed-Up Kids

*Introduce the Idea of the Activity:*

Match up the top and bottom halves of kids.

*Supplies You Need:*

Mixed-Up Kids Worksheets

Glue stick

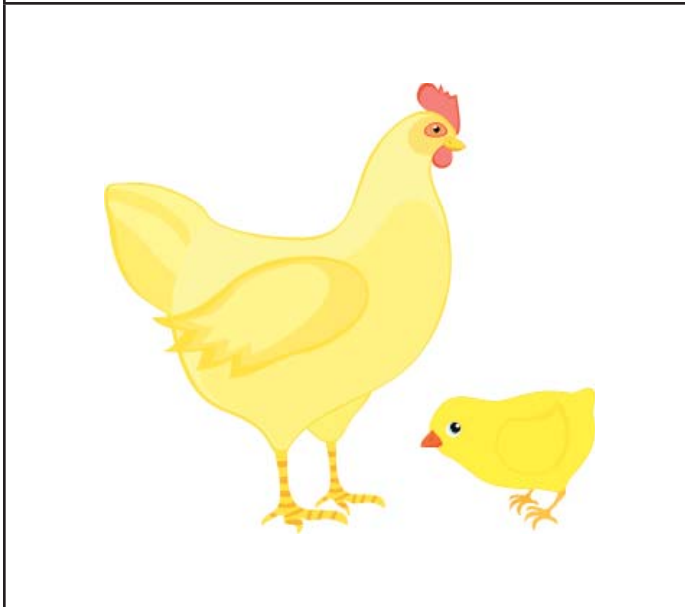
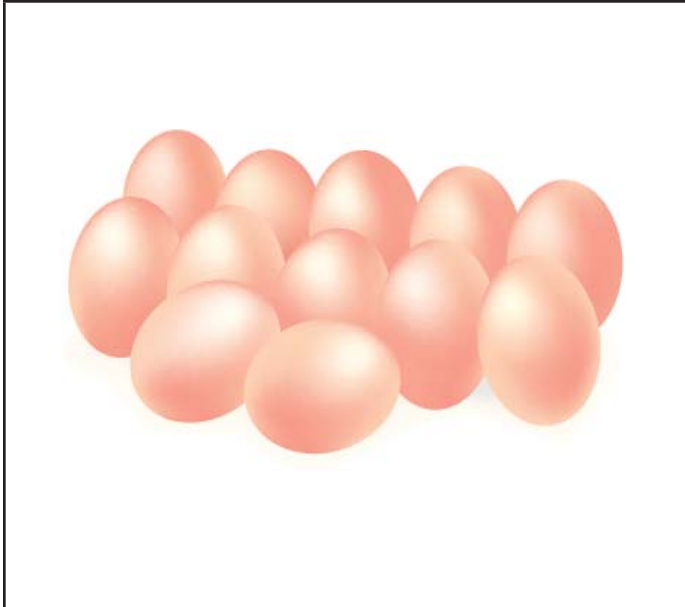
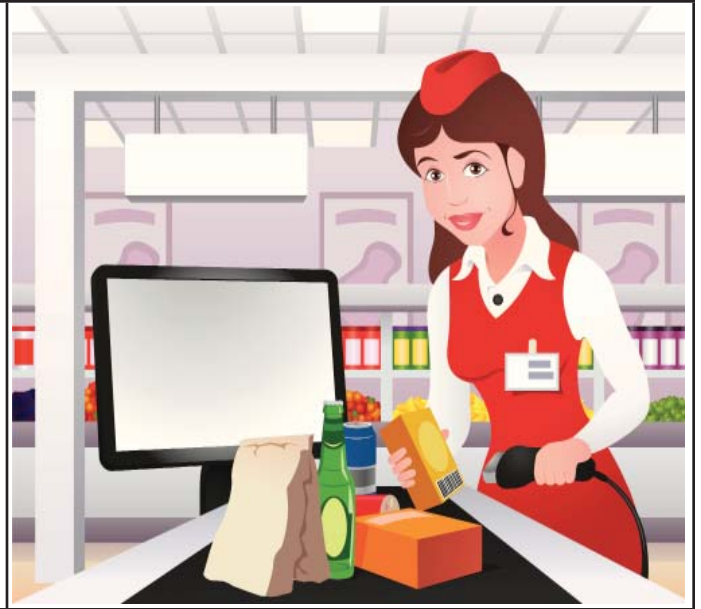
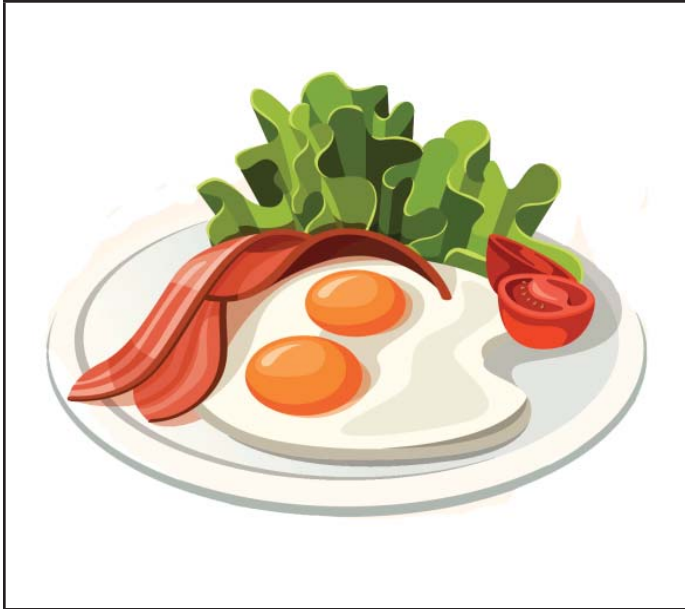
Index cards

*Start the Activity:*

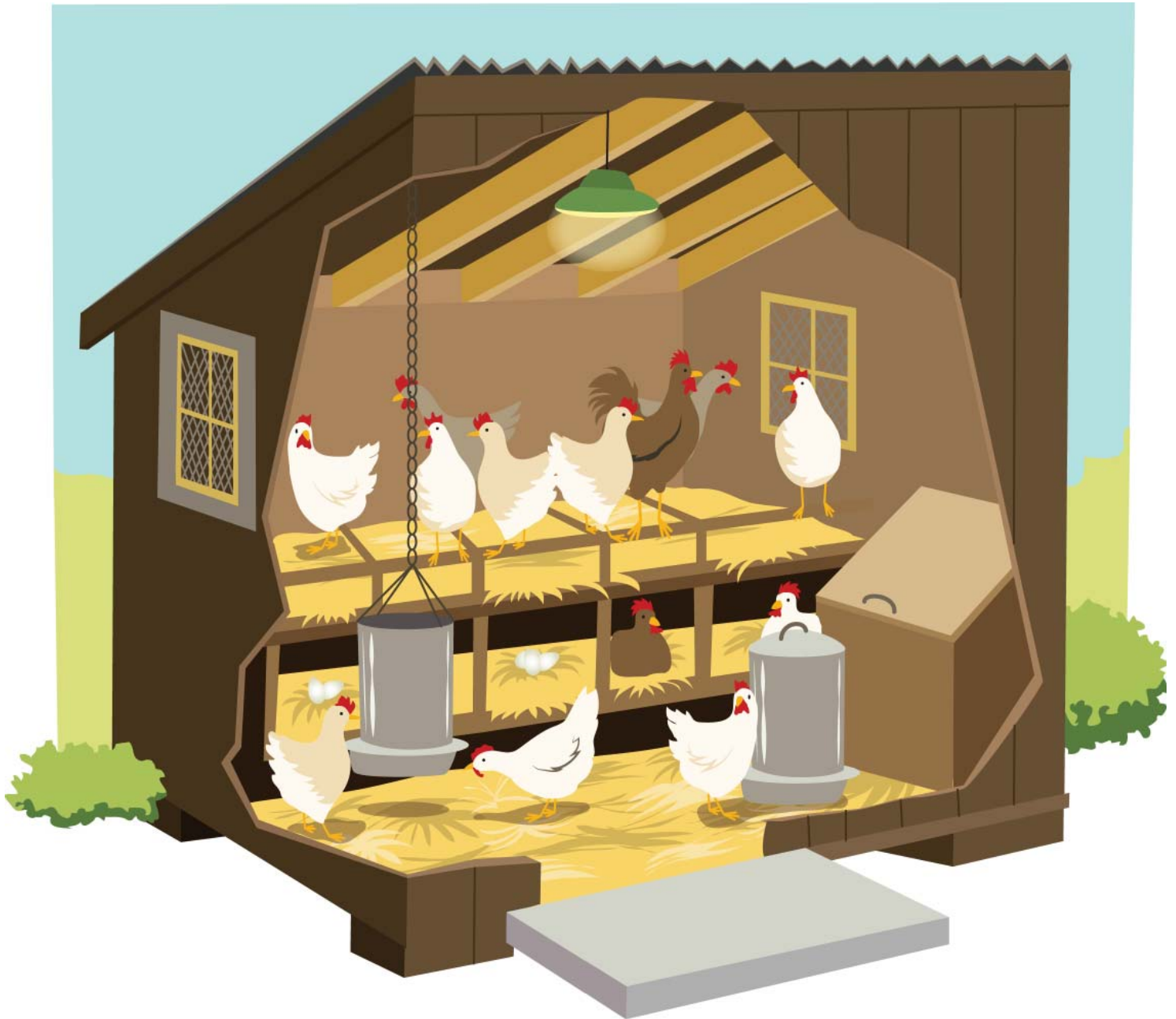
Use the figures on the next two pages, or cut pictures of children from magazines. Glue each figure onto an index card, then cut the card in half. Place the cards face up, mix them up, and match the cards up.



Eggs Sequence - Cut the squares apart.



# What Do You See?



## Can You Find . . .

- 13 chickens
- eggs
- 2 water dispensers
- a bin for food
- a light to warm the coop
- straw for more warmth and comfort
- cubbies for nesting hens
- 2 windows

## How Many Are There?

- white chickens
- windows
- brown chickens
- bushes
- cream (off-white) chickens
- chickens are in cubbies
- piles of eggs
- tan chickens