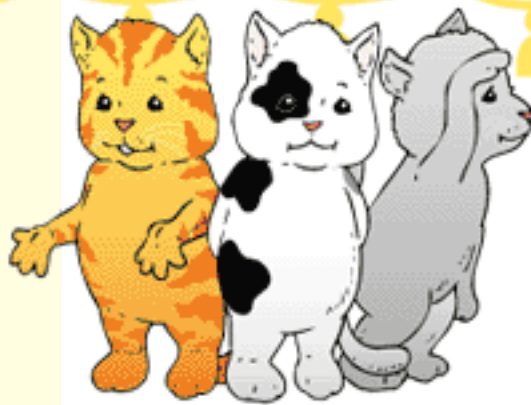


Three Little Kittens

You can count on these activities to be "purr-fect" for your little kittens!



Three little kittens lost their mittens,
And they began to cry,
"Oh, Mother Dear, we sadly fear
Our mittens we have lost!"
"What? Lost your mittens?
You naughty kittens!
Then you shall have no pie."
"Meow, meow, meow!"



Mitten Match

Number and Operations

- understanding one-to-one correspondence

Cheerful meows will resound as your little kittens successfully pair colorful mittens! To prepare, make a clothesline by securely tying a length of cotton cord between two sturdy chairs as shown. Next, make several colorful construction paper copies of the mitten patterns on page 6. Cut out the mittens and then glue a wooden clothespin to one mitten in each pair. Clip the prepared mittens on the clothesline and store the other mittens in a basket.

Invite one child at a time to choose a mitten from the basket and then match it with one mitten on the clothesline. Have him clip the mitten on the clothesline to make a pair. After he has paired all the mittens, have him count the number of pairs.

To keep student interest high, change the center slightly each day. Add a pair of mittens to the mix (did the kittens make a new friend?) or remove one mitten from the basket (oops! a kitten must have lost a mitten). Meow, meow!

Counting Kittens

Number and Operations

- counting to three

Reinforce counting skills as youngsters help the mama cat find her three little kittens! Have youngsters sit in a circle and ask them to pretend that you are the mama cat and you're looking for your three little kittens. Invite each child to imagine she is a kitten. Choose one, two, or three little kittens to stand; then have the group count the set. Ask youngsters to decide if this set is the mama's little kittens and explain why or why not. Repeat the counting process with different sets of kittens until sets of three have been identified several times. Then, acting as the mama cat, guide all your little kittens to recite and perform the rhyme.

For further counting practice, have each child complete the activity on a copy of page 7. Read the directions to students and then have them color the correct number of kittens in each box.



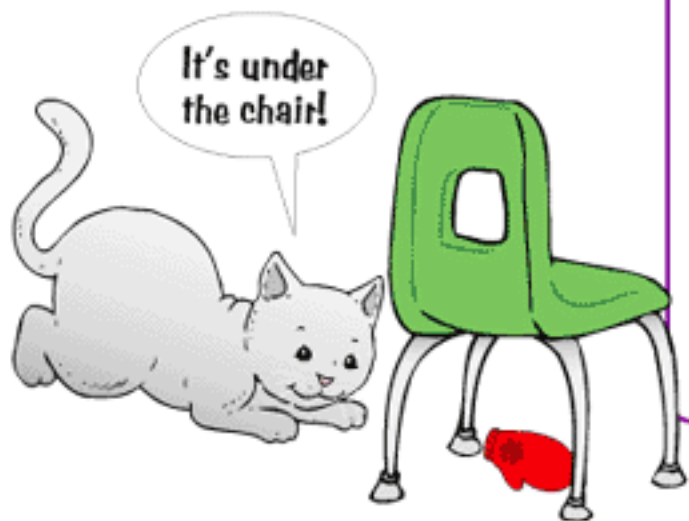
Missing Mittens!

Geometry

- using positional words

Strengthen your little kittens' understanding of positional words when they help find the lost mittens! Use the patterns on page 6 to prepare three different-colored construction paper mitten cutouts. Then, while students are out of the classroom, hide the mittens in three different positions in a designated area of your classroom. (For example, hide mittens on a rug, under a chair, and beside a bookcase.)

During group time, recite the traditional nursery rhyme with youngsters. Then ask one student to search for a lost mitten. When the child finds a mitten, encourage him to use a positional-word phrase to tell where he found it. Repeat with the remaining two mittens. Next, invite three different students to hide one mitten each in a different position around the classroom. Choose another student to search for a lost mitten and describe its position. Continue the process until each child has had a turn hiding or finding a mitten. What good little kittens!



Plump Pies

Algebra

- sorting by color

This imaginative sorting center offers youngsters a no-mess way to prepare the perfect pie! In advance, gather a supply of red, blue, and black pom-poms, a large plastic bowl, a large plastic spoon, paper plates, and three aluminum pie pans. Put all the pom-poms in the bowl and mix them together. Then place all the supplies at a center. Encourage youngsters to pretend that the pom-poms are different types of berries that the mama cat uses to make pies for the three little kittens. Invite each child in a small group to scoop a spoonful of berries onto a paper plate. Ask each child to sort the berries by color into different pie pans as shown. The mama cat would be proud of those pies!

