

Literacy

Cinnamon Letters

This activity for your **writing** center will smell as good as it looks! Supply youngsters with cinnamon sticks and sheets of sandpaper cut into the shapes of various letters. Have little ones trace the lines and curves of the sandpaper letters with the cinnamon sticks. Once your preschoolers get the hang of writing with the cinnamon sticks, provide uncut sheets of sandpaper and invite them to write letters (or make drawings) freehand.

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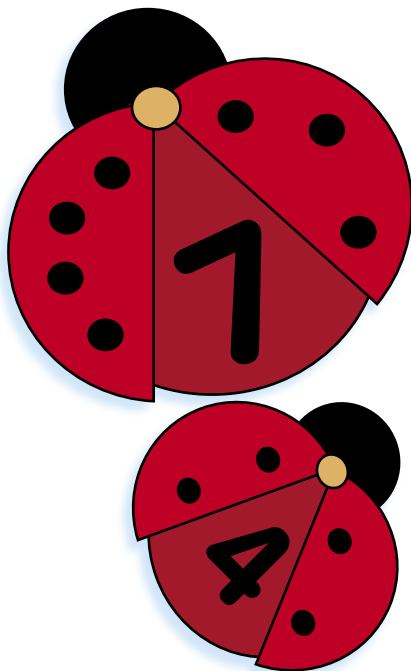
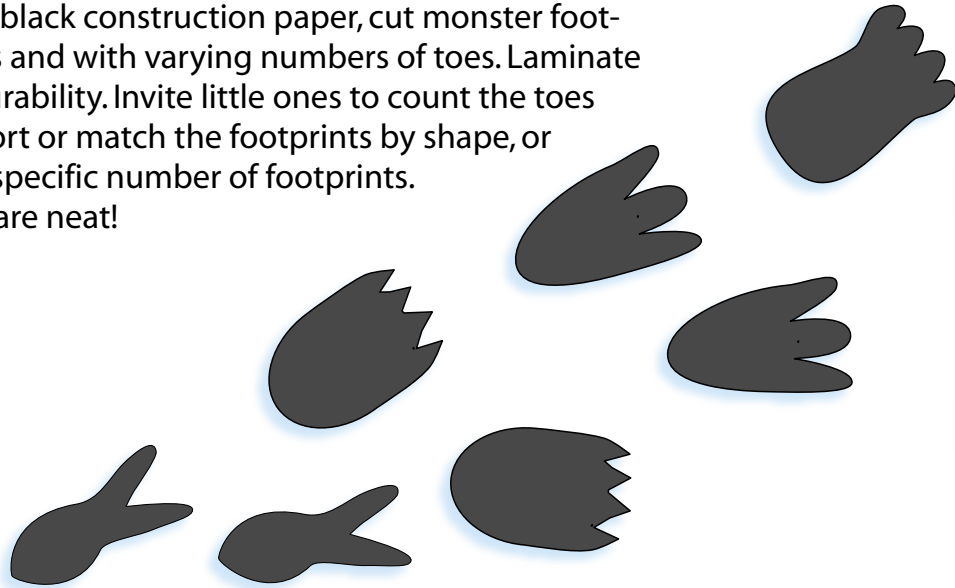
Rub 'em and Write 'Em

"Look! Letters!" That's what your students will be saying when they try this crayon-rubbing activity. Use double-sided tape to stick die-cut letters to the top of your **writing** table. Then spread a piece of white bulletin board paper over the tabletop and tape the edges in place. Provide peeled crayons; then invite little ones to rub the sides of the crayons over the paper and reveal the letters. Encourage them to practice forming the letters on the paper near the rubbings. For added learning fun, have more advanced students draw things that begin with that letter.

Monster Footprints

Make a supply of wacky footprints for some monstrous **counting** fun. From black construction paper, cut monster footprints in odd shapes and with varying numbers of toes. Laminate the footprints for durability. Invite little ones to count the toes on each footprint, sort or match the footprints by shape, or create a trail with a specific number of footprints. Hey—monster feet are neat!

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Ladybug Counting

Little ones will spread their wings and fly over to your math area for some number fun with ladybugs! Make a set of ladybug manipulatives to help your students practice **counting and numeral recognition**. To make one ladybug, cut out a construction paper copy of the pattern on page 36. Use a permanent marker to label the ladybug with a numeral from 1 to 10; then draw the corresponding number of dots on the wing set. Fasten the patterns together with a brad as shown. Invite a child at this center to count the dots on a ladybug's wings and then spread the wings to see the corresponding numeral.

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