

Word Skills & Vocabulary

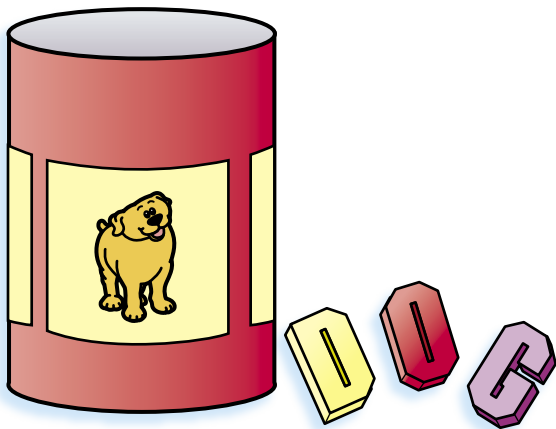
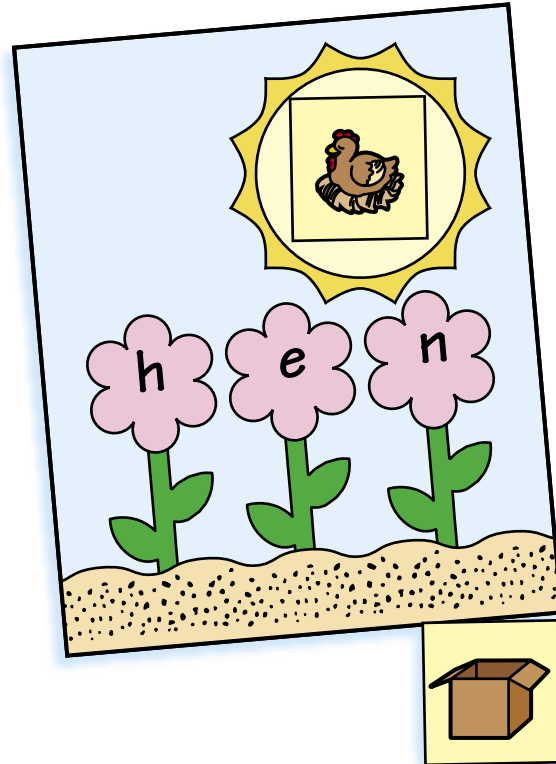
The Garden of Reading

Word skills will blossom with this center!

Color six copies of the sun-and-flowers mat on page 52. Also cut out six of the picture cards on page 53. Write individual letters on the flowers to spell each picture word, as shown.

To use this center, a child sounds out the word on a mat and then chooses the corresponding picture and places it on the sun. After he has matched all the words and pictures, he has his teacher check his work.

Linda Havens and Lyn Edwards
Oakwood Elementary
Kalamazoo, MI



Shake and Spell

Shake up **spelling** with this center idea! Cover the outside of a large canister with construction paper or Con-Tact covering. Cut out six picture cards from page 53 and tape them on the outside of the can. Put the magnetic letters needed to spell each picture word inside the can; then put on the lid. Have a child shake the can and spill the letters out onto a tabletop. Then have him arrange the letters to spell each word depicted on the can.

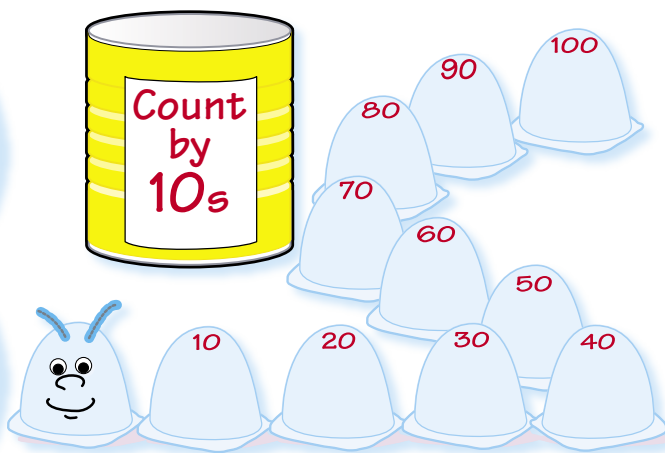
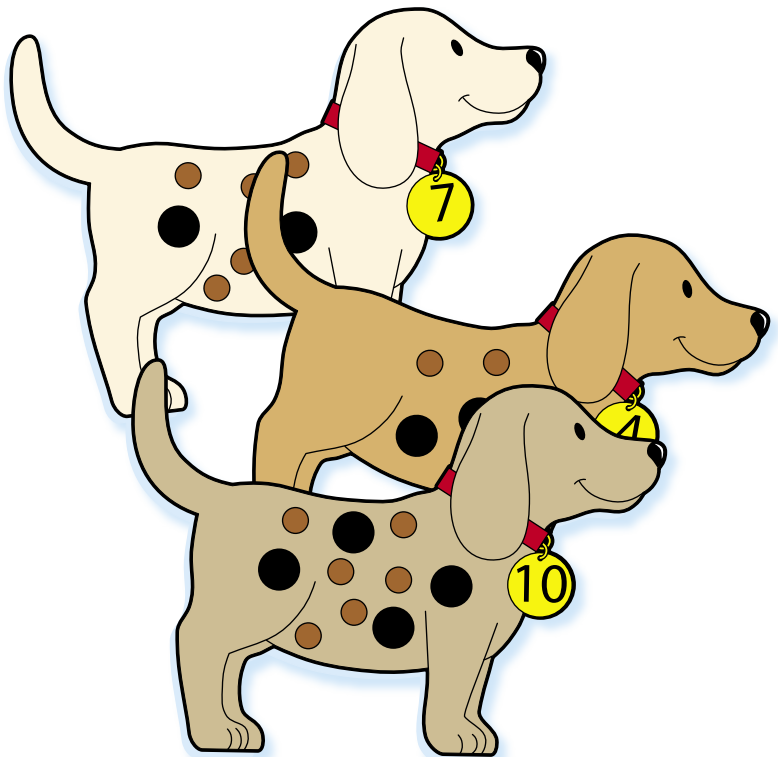
Jeanne Jackson
Northside Primary
Palestine, TX

Number & Operations

Spots on Spot

Here's a doggone fun math center to practice **number recognition** and **counting**. For each number that you would like to include in this center, photocopy the dog pattern (page 86). Program each dog's tag with a numeral. Then laminate them. Stock the center with a supply of small black or brown construction paper circles (spots). To use this center, a child chooses a dog, reads the numeral, and then places the corresponding number of spots on the dog cutout.

Laurie Mills
Stevenson Elementary
Stevenson, AL



Caterpillar Count

Watch **skip-counting** skills grow right along with these cute caterpillars! To make a caterpillar for skip-counting, cut away the lid of a sterilized egg carton, then cut apart the individual egg cups. Turn each cup over. Decorate one to resemble a caterpillar head and program the remaining cups for skip counting. (Set aside or add extra egg cups as needed.) For self-checking, number the inside of the programmed cups in order (1, 2, 3, ...). Store the cups for each caterpillar in a labeled container or color-code each caterpillar. Working from left to right, a student arranges each set of cups in sequential order, starting with the caterpillar's head. To check his work, he inverts the caterpillar.

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