

## Animals from “The Big Red Barn”

For active dramatic play read a favorite children’s story, then have the children pretend to be characters from that story. For example, read *The Big Red Barn*, by Margaret Wise Brown to the children. This story is full of all kinds of farm animals. Let the children pick a favorite animal. Then read the story again slowly, stopping on each page to allow the children to act out the part of their favorite animal on that page. Make sure each child has a turn during the story.

### Here are some ideas to expand this activity:

- Find more information, pictures, etc. about the animals in the story.
- The children can talk about what they learn about their animal.
- They can make clay or play dough figures of the animals.
- Play a circle game where the children pretend to be their animal when it is their turn.
- Encourage the children to make up their own story about farm animals. Write down what they say.
- Have them draw pictures of their animals to illustrate the story.
- Put their book in a place in the room for all to enjoy. Make sure parents see what the children have accomplished!



## Build and Create with Shapes

Young children need to build fine motor skills. Here is an activity that will help. They will also practice recognizing shapes and use creative skills.

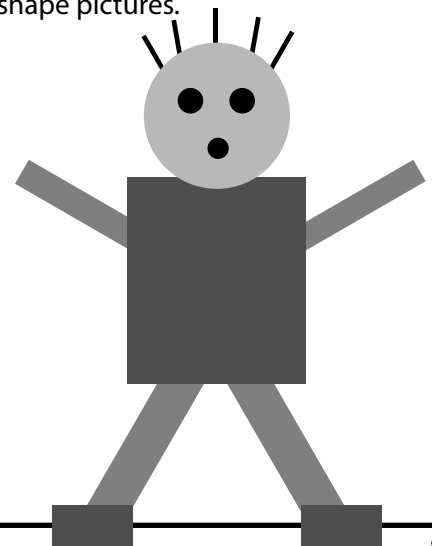
### What you need:

- Thin cardboard or oak tag paper (or stencils of squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles of various sizes)
- Pencils
- Colored paper in a variety of colors
- Safety scissors
- White craft glue
- White construction paper

### What to do:

- Make stencils of the shapes in a variety of sizes on the cardboard or oak tag.
- Have the children trace the shapes with the pencil on the colored paper.
- The children can cut out the shapes.
- Put all the shapes in the center of the table.
- The children can create things using the shapes and glue them to a piece of white paper.

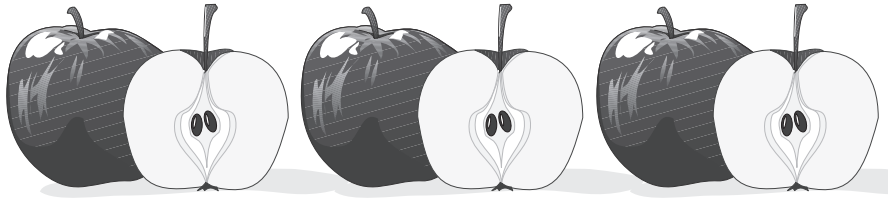
You may want to make this a two-part activity. Part 1 can be the tracing and cutting. Part 2 can be creating the shape pictures.



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## Ten Little Apples – finger play

(Hold up fingers to match each number)



Ten little apples hanging on the tree,  
One fell off and nine we could see.

Nine little apples looking all around,  
One fell down and hit the ground.

Eight little apples left up there,  
Another fell off and flew through the air.

Seven little apples hanging on that tree,  
Wondering who the next will be.

Six little apples way up high,  
Another decided it was time to fly.

Down he went and landed on the ground,  
Then five little apples were all we found.

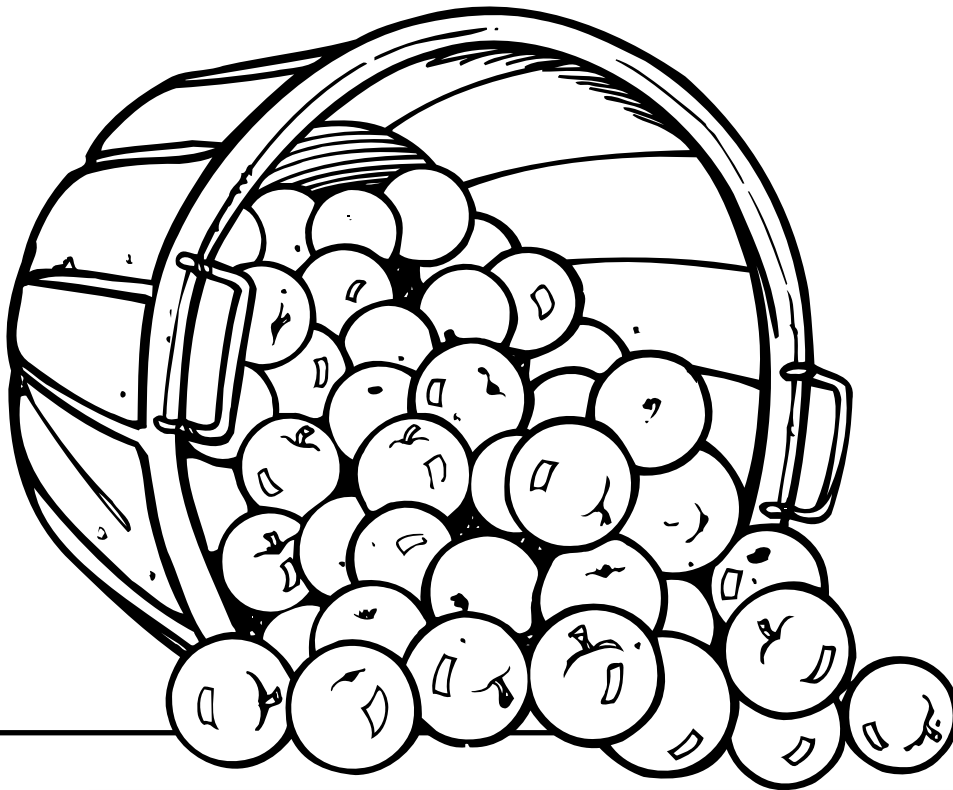
The fifth little apple decided to go,  
So four little apples were left in a row.

Four little apples up there in the tree,  
Another one fell and then there were three.

Three little apples not making a sound,  
One more fell to join others on the ground.

Two little apples hanging high in the air,  
The next one left, to see what was there.

Now one little apple hanging near a nest,  
Decided to fall and join the rest.



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## Taste and See

This activity involves tasting, colors, and math.

### What you need:

- Apples of various kinds and colors

### What to do:

- Have the children identify the colors of the apples.
- Cut the apples in small pieces. Have the children taste different ones.
- Record their favorites.
- Make a chart to show which ones they liked the best.

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