

ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

April 10, 2020

Dear Zoo-Friends,

Today's lessons and activities are going to be all about "bunny-rabbit" related Easter-fun. "robby rabbit," of course, will again be our star!

Materials for lessons that you will need: A bag of cotton balls, paint, glue; a bag of colorful, plastic eggs and a basket!

Any activity that you didn't get to yesterday, you can do today or this coming weekend! The activities are meant to provide light-hearted and playful learning. Remember, this can be "full-family fun!" Get everyone involved! These activities take minutes so you can spread it out throughout the day. Teachers, you can share these with your parents!



NOTE: If the letter is underlined, please Signal it with your child.

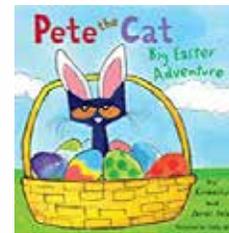
1) **Read a Literature Book:** Read a fun "bunny-rabbit" book (or any book about the Easter or spring celebration). Audible.com is allowing children to download free children's books if parents are members: Try it. *Here are some that are available:*



by James Livingood,
Carrie Coello, et al.



by Rachel Haynes,
Christopher Dickens, et al.

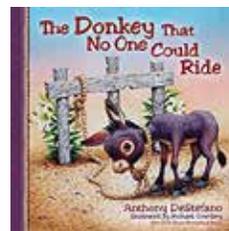


by James Dean,
Teddy Walsh, et al.

Here are some classic "bunny" books to read (and should be in every home!)



Beatrix Potter Favorite Tales:
The Tales of Peter Rabbit
and Jemima Puddle Duck



by Anthony DeStefano
and Richard Cowdrey



When Reading Aloud, Try These Literacy Activities: 1) Read aloud for enjoyment. 2) Signal the first letters in important words and have the child do it with you. 3) Ask simple to more complex questions so your child can think and answer. 4) Talk about the pictures (colors, shapes, characters, action, etc.) 5) Ask the child, "What do you think is going to happen next?" When you read it again (and you will), ask what the child remembers.

2) **Math:** Today it is all about "bunny's cotton-tails!" You will use the cotton-balls in this lesson! *Here are several ideas:*

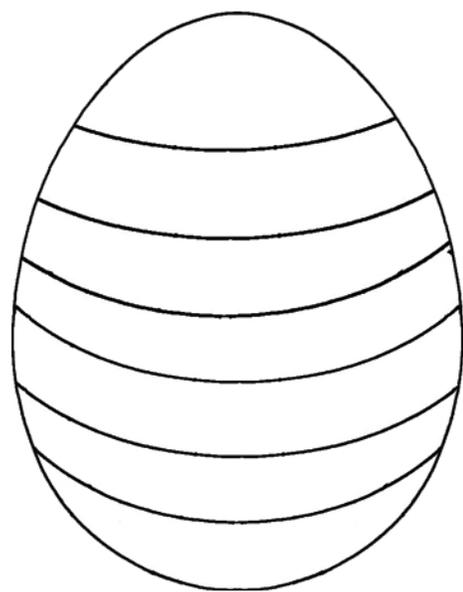
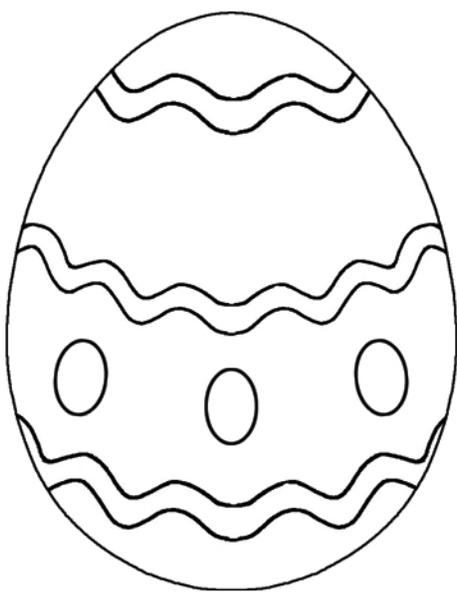
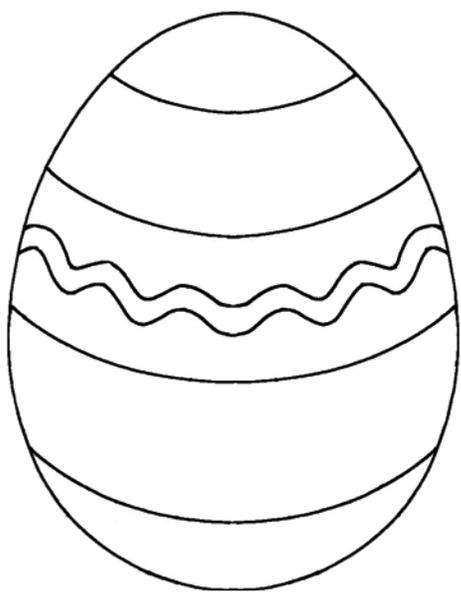
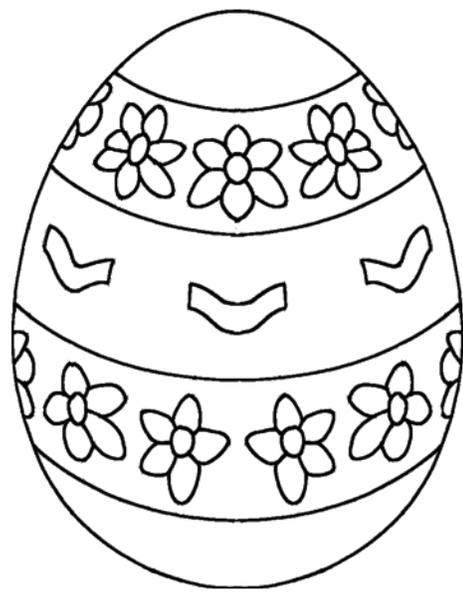
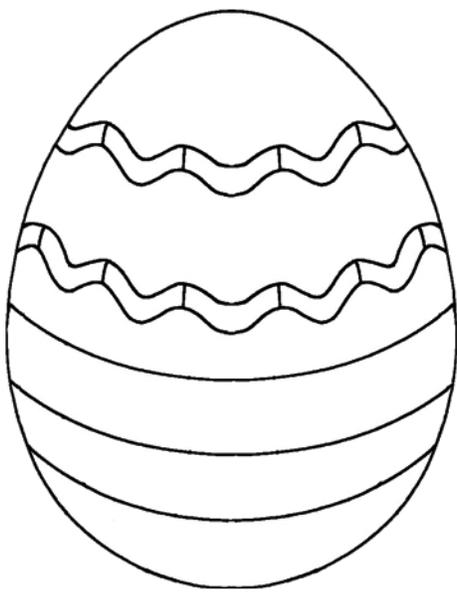
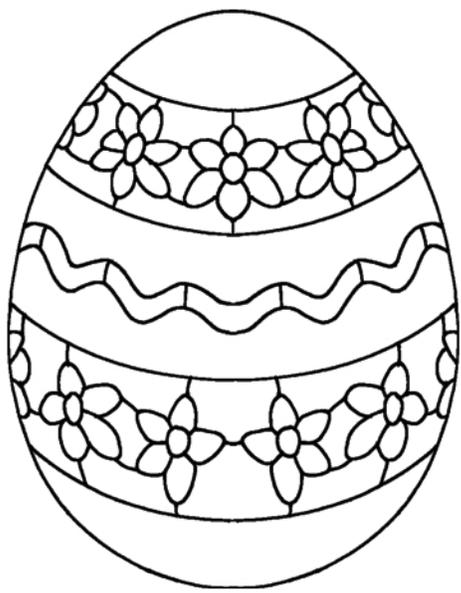
a) **Count!** Spread the cotton balls (cotton-tails!) on a table or the floor. Count as high as your child can count. Have him/her pick up and put the cotton balls into a bowl with every number-count: one, two, three, etc. (This adds a "fine motor" activity with little fingers!)

- b) **Add!** Start with one cotton ball and say, “1.” Now add another 1 cotton ball. How many do you have now? 2 cotton balls! Say, “ $1 + 1 = 2$.” Write down and show the equation to your preschooler! Point to the numbers and symbols as you say the equation. *Make sure s/he sees and understands that:*
- ✓ the + symbol means “plus.”
 - ✓ the word “equal” and “equals” is the same as “makes.” ($1 + 1$ makes 2).
 - ✓ the symbol = means equal.
 - ✓ children see that addition means “getting more of something.”
- Try other addition equations:* For toddlers, use numbers, 1 – 5. For older preschoolers, use numbers from 1 – 10. For K-Kids, 1 - 20.
- c) **Subtract!** Follow the same instructions as addition. Show the (–) minus or subtraction sign. Make sure that children understand that subtraction means “having less of something.” Try other subtraction equations. Write out the equations and read them with your child. Use the cotton balls as counters.
- d) **Use Plastic Eggs:** 1) Discuss the concept of “half” simply by splitting the plastic egg in two! 2) Fill eggs with numbers and symbols. Build simple equations and solve the problems using your cotton balls as counters.



FOR YOUR OLDER CHILDREN: Count to a higher number. Skip count (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.). Make the equations (addition and subtraction) more challenging.

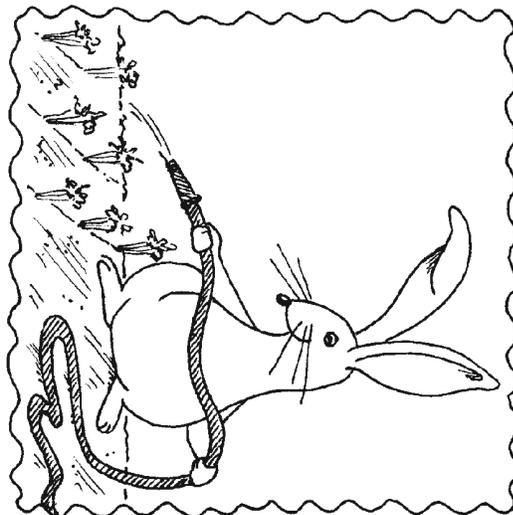
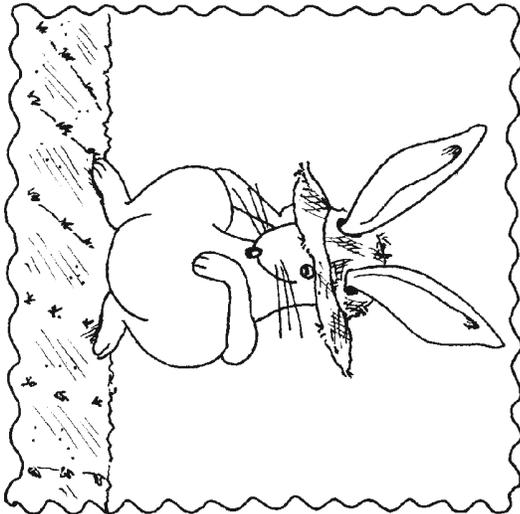
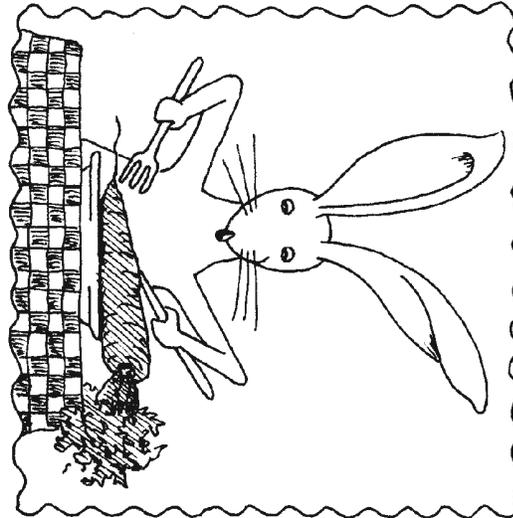
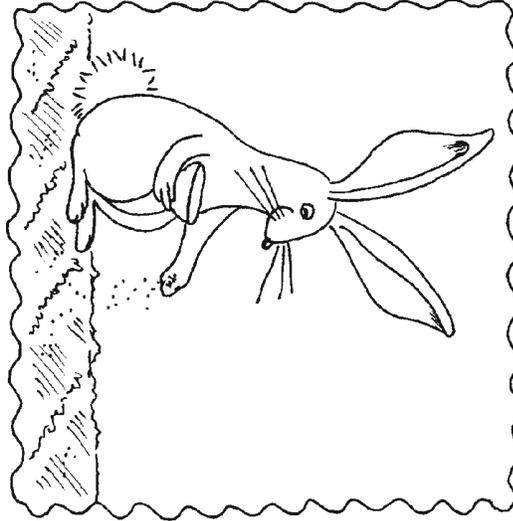
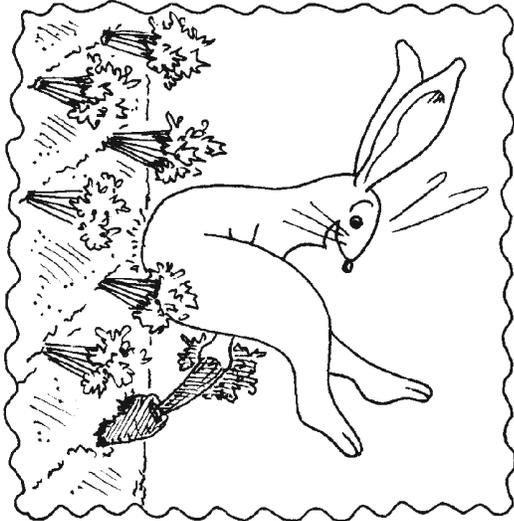
- 3) **Art:** Here are four fun “Easter-y” art projects for you. Locate and print several copies of the Block “b,” the rabbit, and the Easter eggs included below (scroll down, please) and try these activities:
- a) With “spring” pastel colored paints, daub (dab) pretty colors all over the “b.” Together, count the “daubs.”
 - b) On another “b,” glue the cotton balls all over the it. Encourage your child to keep the cotton balls inside the “b.”
 - c) See the rabbit (scroll down) in its natural habitat? Print it and invite your child to color it as you talk about things s/he has learned about rabbits from yesterday’s science activities.
 - d) See the pretty Easter eggs (scroll down). Reproduce and invite your child to color them!
- 4) **Music:** Go online to “Kid-favorite Easter songs” and you’ll find many songs and videos about bunnies and Easter to enjoy. Try clapping to the music. Dance to the music. Learn the lyrics! (You’ll find old favorites that you know, too!)
- 5) **Music and Physical Activity:** This has a few steps:
- a) **Hopping and Jumping.** Make 10 copies of the Easter egg picture from “d” above. Color them and then cut them up. Place them on the floor about 8 inches or a foot apart. Put on some good jumping or hopping music (Bach’s 1 BACH - Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major) and have your children jump on each egg.
 - b) **Dance or Move to the Rhythm.** Remember the words, soft and slow (**adagio**) and fast and loud (**allegro**)? Remind your child. Nothing like growing up knowing what important words mean!
- 6) **Review Word Play with Your Older Preschooler or Kindergartner.** Fill colorful, plastic eggs with letters to form words or words. Have the child build the word or read the word. Signal and sound!
- a) Using the words, **rag, ran, rat, rub, rug, run**, place each one in a plastic egg. Place the eggs in a cute basket. Your child will chose an egg, crack it open, and Signal and sound out the word!
 - b) Add other words to the eggs: ad, an, as; sad, sat, set, sit; met; bid, did, hid, rid; bop, cop, hop; cup, pup, sup. Signal, sound and read!



name: _____

sequencing with robbly rabbit

Directions: Cut out the pictures below and then put them in the correct order to tell a story. Look carefully at the pictures. (*Note:* You can put the sequence numbers on the back of each picture and laminate. Use over and over.)



 robbly  rabbit



Rabbit

CLASSIFICATION: Mammal

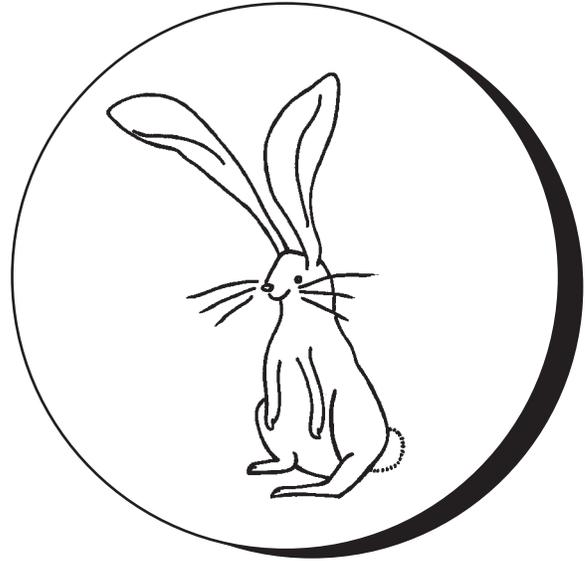
SIZE: Largest can be 22 inches from head to tail and weigh eight pounds. The smallest can be ten inches long and weigh one pound.

HABITAT: Burrows or shallow depressions under shrubs where they can look around for enemies when in the wild.

BREEDING: Baby rabbits are often born throughout the year but some species bear only in the spring. A litter can be from three to seven.

DIET: Grasses, herbs, stems and leaves of shrubs. They feed in the mornings and evenings.

DISTRIBUTION: Most parts of the world. In North America the cottontail rabbit is the most common.



DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND INTERESTING FACTS

Rabbits have long ears and move by hopping. Their front legs are shorter than their back legs. Their bodies are covered with brown, tan, gray or white fur. The Snowshoe Rabbit is darkish brown in summer but turns all white in winter. Rabbits are “game” animals, used as food by many people. Their pelts provide a very popular fur.

