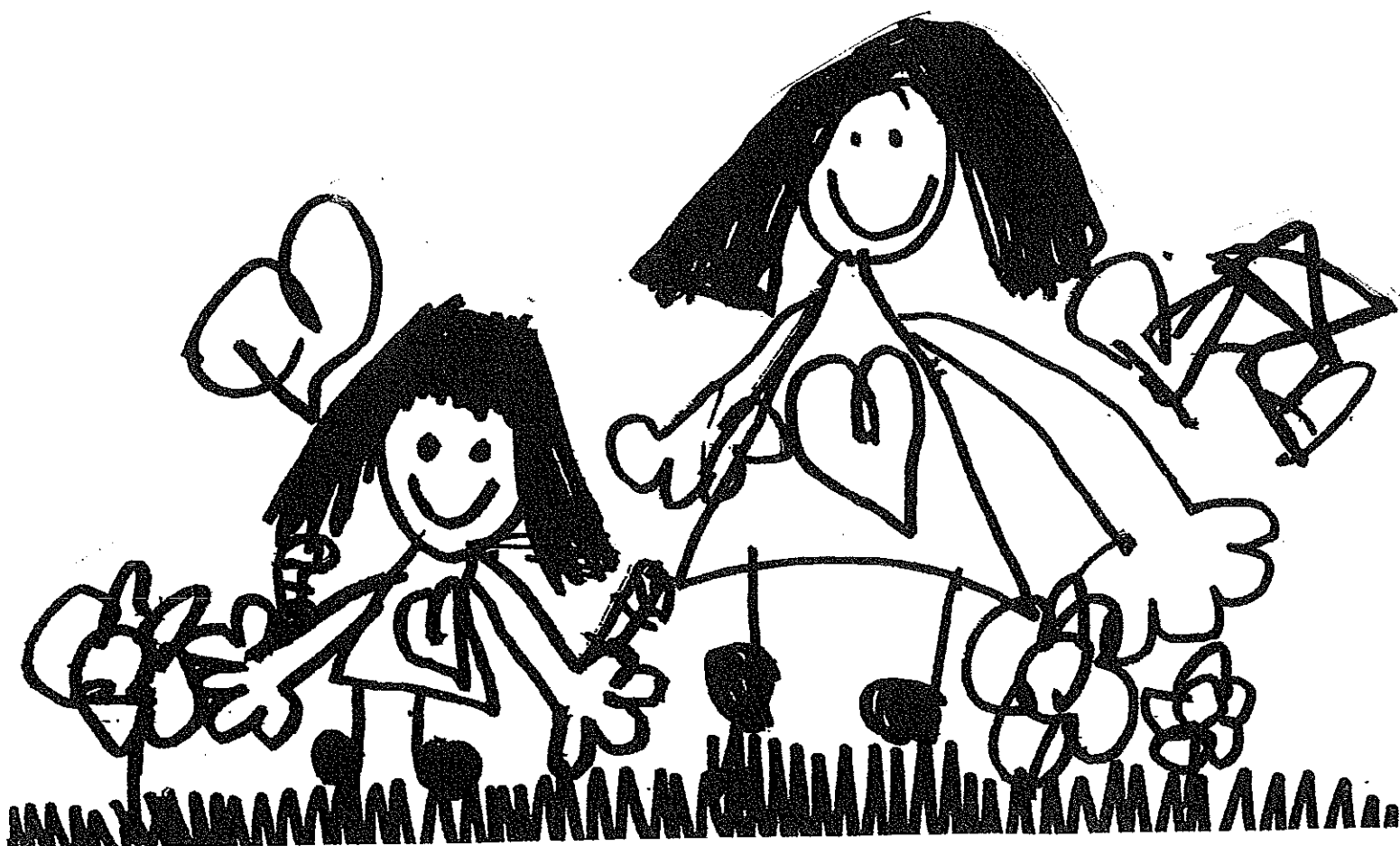


TIPS AND TRICKS FOR TRANSITIONAL  
KINDERGARTEN: BUILDING A TEACHER'S  
TOOLKIT

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# What do TK Kids Look Like?

"Energetic" and "imaginative" best describe the 4-year-old. Often impatient and silly, they discover humor and spend a great deal of time being silly and telling you "jokes." A 4-year-old's language may range from silly words such as "batty-watty" to profanity. Loud, boisterous laughter may accompany such language.

Imagination suddenly becomes greater than life for the 4-year-old, who often confuses reality and "make-believe." Wild stories and exaggerations are common.

Four-year-olds feel good about the things they can do, show self-confidence, and are willing to try new adventures. They race up and down stairs or around corners, dash on tricycles or scooters, and pull wagons at full tilt. You still need to watch them closely as they cannot estimate their own abilities accurately and are capable of trying some outlandish and dangerous tricks.

## INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

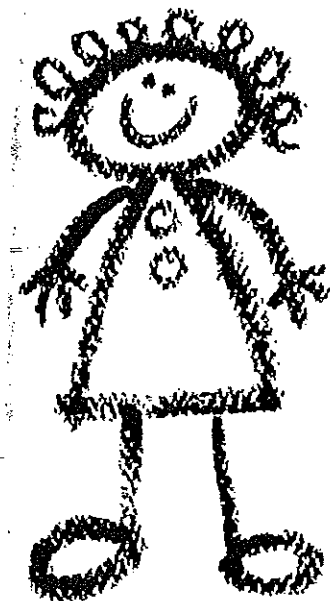
- can place objects in a line from largest to smallest
- can recognize some letters if taught, and may be able to print own name
- recognizes familiar words in simple books or signs (STOP sign)
- understands the concepts of "tallest, biggest, same, more, on, in, under, and above"
- counts 1-7 objects out loud - but not always in the right order
- understands the order of daily routines (breakfast before lunch, lunch before dinner, dinner before bed time)
- speaks in fairly complex sentences. "The baby ate the cookie before I could put it on the table."

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- weight: 27-50 pounds
- height: 37-46 inches
- uses a spoon, fork, and dinner knife skillfully
- needs 10-12 hours sleep each night
- dresses self without much assistance (unzip, unsnap, unbutton clothes; lace but not tie shoes)
- can feed self, brush teeth, comb hair, wash, dress, hang up clothes with little assistance
- walks a straight line
- hops on one foot
- pedals and steers a tricycle skillfully
- jumps over objects 5-6 inches high
- runs, jumps, hops, and skips around obstacles with ease
- stacks 10 or more blocks
- forms shapes and objects out of clay or play dough, sometimes human



- asks a lot of questions, including ones on birth and death
- enjoys singing simple songs, rhymes, and nonsense words
- adapts language to listener's level of understanding. To baby sister: "Daddy go bye-bye." To Mother: "Daddy went to the store to buy food."
- learns name, address, and phone number, if taught
- asks and answers who, what, when, why, and where questions
- continues one activity for 10-15 minutes
- names 6-8 colors and 3 shapes
- follows 2 unrelated directions (put your milk on the table and get your coat on)
- has basic understanding of concepts related to number, size, weight, colors, textures, distance, position, and time
- understands immediate passage of time as in what happened yesterday, but does not understand calendar time
- has long attention span and finishes activities
- understands and remembers own accomplishments
- may add "ed" to words. "I goed to the door and put-ed the cat outdoors. He hurt-ed me."



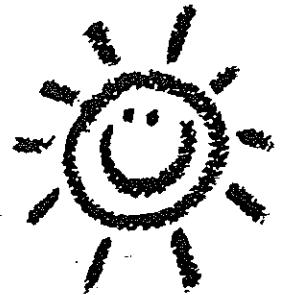
and animal figures

- threads small beads on a string
- catches, bounces, and throws a ball easily
- likes to gallop, turn somersaults, climb ladders and trees, hop on one foot.

## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- enjoys playing with other children
- takes turns and shares (most of the time); may still be rather bossy
- seeks out adult approval
- understands and obeys simple rules (most of the time)
- changes the rules of a game as she goes along
- likes to talk and carries on elaborate conversations
- capable of feeling jealous
- persistently asks why
- boastful - enjoys showing off and bragging about possessions
- fearful of the dark and monsters
- begins to understand danger - at times can become quite fearful
- has difficulty separating make-believe from reality
- lies sometimes to protect self and friends, but doesn't truly understand the concept of lying - imagination often gets in the way
- may name call, tattle freely
- likes to shock others by using "forbidden" words
- expresses anger verbally rather than physically (most of the time)
- still throws tantrums over minor frustrations
- imitates parent of the same sex, particularly in play
- enjoys pretending, often with imaginary playmates
- pretending goes far beyond "playing house" to more elaborate settings like fire station, school shoe store, ice cream shop
- loves to tell jokes that may not make any sense at all to adults
- can feel intense anger and frustration
- has vivid imagination and sometimes imaginary playmates
- enjoys dramatic play and role playing

Five-year-olds are cheerful, energetic, and enthusiastic. They enjoy planning, and spend a great deal of time discussing who will do what. They especially enjoy dramatic play, usually with other children. Five-year-olds are more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others around them. It is less difficult for them to wait for a turn or to share toys and material. "Best friends" become very important.



**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

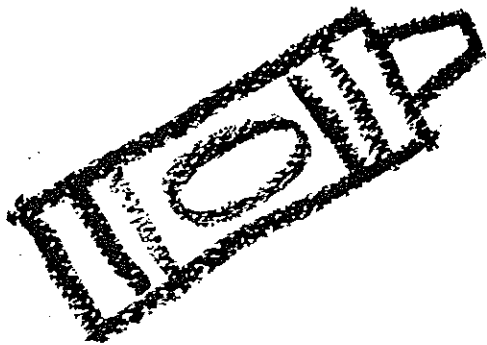
- invents games with simple rules
- organizes other children and toys for pretend play
- still confuses fantasy with reality sometimes
- often fears loud noises, the dark, animals, and some people
- can take turns and share, but doesn't always want to
- expresses anger and jealousy physically
- likes to test muscular strength and motor skills, but is not emotionally ready for competition
- carries on conversations with other children and adults
- often excludes other children in play - best friends only
- uses swear words or "bathroom words" to get attention
- sometimes can be very bossy
- likes to try new things and take risks
- likes to make own decisions
- notices when another child is angry or sad - more sensitive to feelings of others
- prefers company of 1 or 2 children at a time; may become bossy or sulky when others join in
- likes to feel grown up; boasts about

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

- weight: 31-57 pounds
- height: 39-48 inches
- requires approximately 1,700 calories daily
- sleeps 10-11 hours at night
- may begin to loose baby teeth
- able to dress self with little assistance
- learns to skip
- throws ball overhead
- catches bounced balls
- rides a tricycle skillfully; may show interest in riding a bicycle with training wheels
- balances on either foot for 5-10 seconds
- uses a fork and knife well
- cuts on a line with scissors
- left or right hand dominance is established
- walks down stairs, alternating feet without using a handrail
- jumps over low objects
- can run, gallop, and tumble
- can skip and run on tiptoe
- can jump rope
- interested in performing tricks like standing on head, performing dance steps
- capable of learning complex body coordination skills like swimming, ice or roller skating, and riding bicycles
- may be able to tie shoelaces
- may be able to copy simple designs and shape

self to younger, less capable children

- begins to have a very basic understanding of right and wrong
- plays contentedly and independently without constant supervision
- takes turns and shares (sometimes)
- understands and respects rules - often asks permission
- understands and enjoys both giving and receiving
- enjoys collecting things
- sometimes needs to get away and be alone
- can understand relationships among people and similarities and differences in other families
- seeks adult approval
- sometimes critical of other children and embarrassed by own mistakes
- less fearful of the world than toddlers because understands the world better
- has a good sense of humor, and enjoys sharing jokes and laughter with adults



## INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- understands about 13,000 words
- uses 5-8 words in a sentence
- likes to argue and reason; use words like "because"
- knows basic colors like red, yellow, blue, green, orange
- able to memorize address and phone number
- understands that stories have a beginning, middle, and end
- able to remember stories and repeat them
- enjoys creating and telling stories
- understands that books are read from left to right, top to bottom
- enjoys riddles and jokes
- draws pictures that represent animals, people, and objects
- enjoys tracing or copying letters
- can place objects in order from shortest to tallest
- can understand and use comparative terms like big, bigger, or biggest
- sorts objects by size
- identifies some letters of the alphabet and a few numbers (if taught)
- understands "more," "less," and "same"
- counts up to 10 objects
- recognizes categories ("These are all animals; these are all toys.")
- understands before and after, above, and below
- block and dramatic play is much more elaborate and complex
- has good attention span and can concentrate well
- is project minded - plans buildings, play scenarios, and drawings
- interested in cause and effect
- can understand time concepts like yesterday, today, and tomorrow

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## THEMATIC THOUGHTS....A COLOR A WEEK PLAN

Week #1:

Color: Yellow Shape: Star  
Nursery Rhyme: "Twinkle, Twinkle"  
Critter In Literature: Spot by Eric Hill

Week #2:

Color: Blue Shape: Circle  
Nursery Rhyme: "Little Boy Blue"  
Critter In Literature: Blue from Blue's Clues

Week #3:

Color: Green Shape: Triangle  
Nursery Rhyme: "Jack Be Nimble"  
Critter In Literature: Franklin

Week #4:

Color: Red Shape: Rectangle  
Nursery Rhyme: "Oh Dear....."  
Critter In Literature: Clifford the Big Red Dog

Week #5:

REVIEW

Week #6:

Color: White Shape: Heart  
Nursery Rhyme: "Old Mother Hubbard"  
Critter In Literature: Petunia

Week #7:

Color: Black  
Nursery Rhyme: "Little Miss Muffet"  
Critter In Literature: Angus



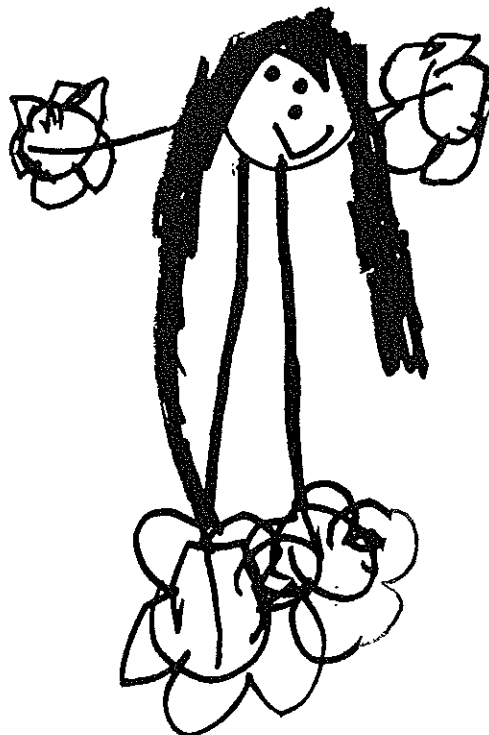
Week #8:  
Color: Orange  
Nursery Rhyme: "Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater"  
Critter In Literature: Leo the Late Bloomer

Week #9:  
Color: Purple  
Nursery Rhyme: "Little Jack Horner"  
Critter In Literature: The Purple Cow

Week #10:  
Color: Pink  
Nursery Rhyme: "To Market, To Market"  
Critters In Literature: the Three Little Pigs

Week #11:  
Color: Brown  
Nursery Rhyme: "I, 2 Buckle My Shoe"  
Critter In Literature: Curious George

Week #12:  
Color: Gray  
Nursery Rhyme: Hickory, Dickory, Dock  
Classic Tale: Three Billy Goats Gruff



## TITLES FOR YOUR TOOLKIT!

Here are a few of my favorite new titles....and some oldies but goodies too...

Take a look!

Jan Thomas. IS EVERYONE READY FOR FUN?  
Beach Lane. 2011.

Patricia Polacco. THE ART OF MISS CHEW.  
Putnam. 2012

David McPhail. THE FAMILY TREE. Holt. 2012

Jeanne Willis. I HATE SCHOOL. Atheneum. 2012

Jane Manning. MILLIE FIERCE. Philomel. 2012

Steve Cox. IS THAT YOU, MR. WOLF? Barrons. 2011.

Barbara Mariconda. TEN FOR ME. Sylvan Dell. 2011.

Loren Long. NIGHTSONG. Simon Schuster. 2012.

Lisa Cambell Ernst. THE GINGERBREAD GIRL GOES  
ANIMAL CRACKERS. Dutton. 2011

Laura Numeroff. WHAT SISTERS DO BEST, WHAT  
BROTHERS DO BEST. Chronicle. 2009.

Eric Pinder. IF ALL THE ANIMALS CAME INSIDE.  
Little Brown. 2012.

Angela Diterlizza. SAY WHAT?. Beach Lane. 2011.

Peter, Paul and Mary. IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING.  
Imagine. 2012.

Lola Schaefer. JUST ONE BITE. Chronicle. 2010

Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. READY, SET, 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY.

Marshall Cavendish. 2011.





RESOURCES FOR YOU...  
BOOKS, MUSIC AND WEBSITES TOO!

For all things TK...

[www.preschoolcalifornia.org](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org) and

[www.ckanet.org](http://www.ckanet.org)

TRIED AND TRUE...PLACES  
THAT WORK FOR YOU KIDDOS AND YOU!

<http://moffattgirls.blogspot.com/>

The link to the Phonics and Sight Word watches in addition to  
the Sight Word Money...

[www.storybots.com](http://www.storybots.com) and [www.havefunteaching.com](http://www.havefunteaching.com)

FABULOUS songs and tunes for letters and sight words..

WOWZA....you have to go to these websites  
NOW!

[www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com)

and

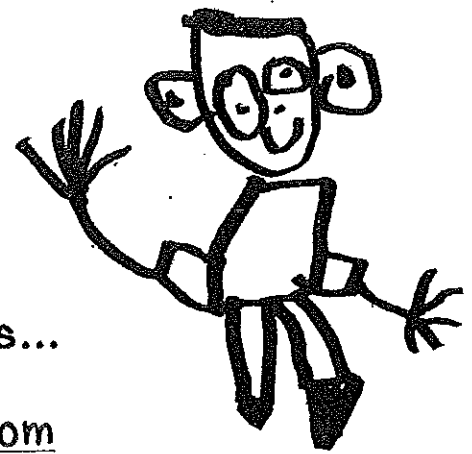
[www.teachersnotebook.com](http://www.teachersnotebook.com)

Loads of resources (both free and for purchase).

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

Join the pinning craze and get lots of ideas from some time  
exploring!





## BLOGS ARE BEST!

Here are some of my favorites...

<http://transitionalkinder.blogspot.com>

-fabulous ideas and projects especially for TK

[www.kinderbykim.com](http://www.kinderbykim.com)

-Kim Jordano's website is filled with projects and photos...practical and fun!

[mrsjumpsclass.blogspot.com](http://mrsjumpsclass.blogspot.com)

-Deanna Jump is a nationally known early childhood educator with tried and true activities and ideas. Bookmark it now!

## MUSIC MUST HAVES

[www.heidisongs.com](http://www.heidisongs.com) and [www.intelli-tunes.com](http://www.intelli-tunes.com)

- Songs for Language arts and Math...catchy and filled with lots of learning! Check them out!!!

[www.gregandsteve.com](http://www.gregandsteve.com)

[www.jimgill.com](http://www.jimgill.com)

[www.charlottediamond.com](http://www.charlottediamond.com)

[www.learningstationmusic.com](http://www.learningstationmusic.com)

[www.melodyhousemusic.com/catalog/stephen-fife-music](http://www.melodyhousemusic.com/catalog/stephen-fife-music)

[www.julieaustin.com](http://www.julieaustin.com)

-These artists are in my Hall of Fame! They are must haves for your movement and perceptual motor program.

## ASSESSMENT ANSWERS!

www.esgisoftware.com -It is amazing! Keeps track of all of your students and you get parent reports and flashcards available to send home. Our team can't say enough about it...Check out the 30 day free trial!

## FOR FUN AND FRILLS...

www.zeroismyhero.com

-Jewelry and 100<sup>th</sup> day items in addition to custom made totebags...I call it "living curriculum." Tell JoAn and Jessica I sent you!



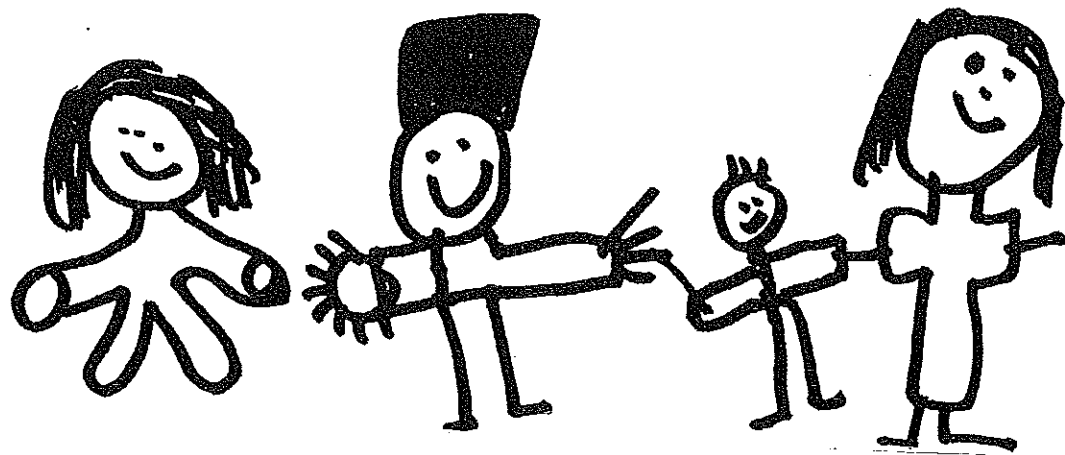
ZERO  
THE

HERO

NOTES...AND.....  
NIFTY NEW STUFF.....



TOOLS  
FOR  
YOUR  
TK  
TOOLKIT!



UPPERCASE  
LETTERS

lowercase  
letters

UPPERCASE  
LETTERS

lowercase  
letters

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lowercase  
letters

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LETTERS

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letters

UPPERCASE  
LETTERS

lowercase  
letters

Letters In  
My Name

Letters NOT  
In My Name

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Numbers MORE

than

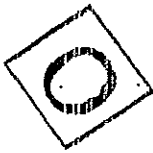
Numbers LESS  
than

Numbers MORE

than

Numbers LESS  
than





letter



word



picture

A B C D E  
F G H I J  
K L M N O  
P Q R S T  
U V W X  
Y Z

Q

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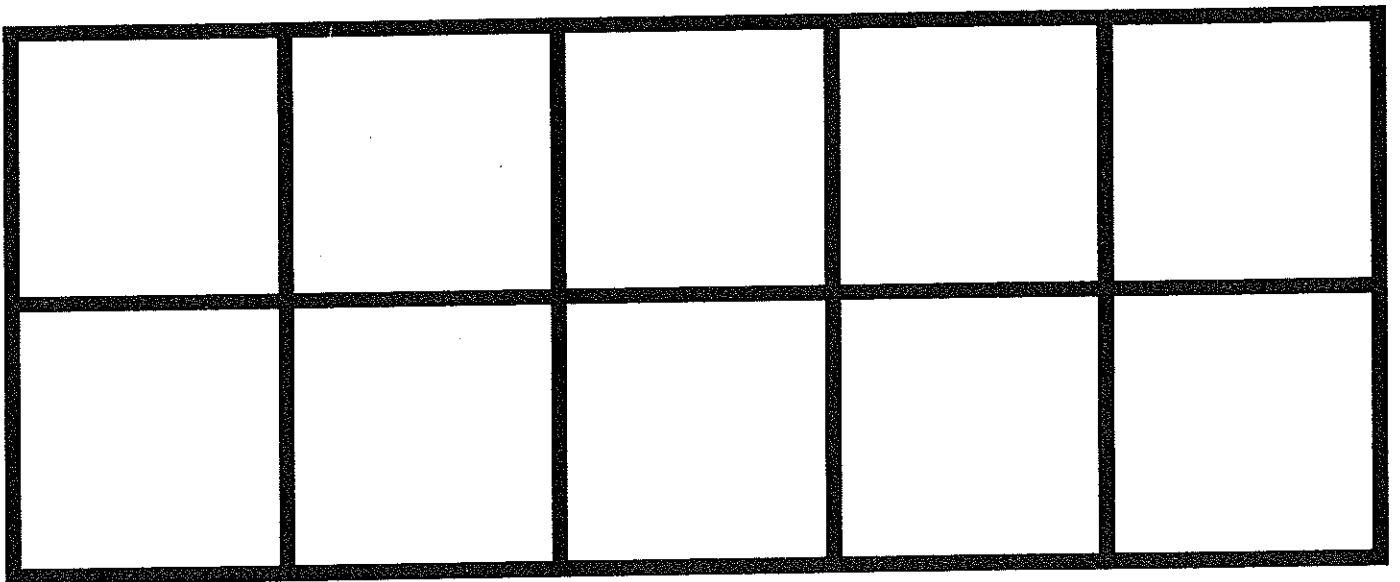
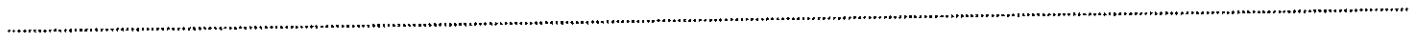
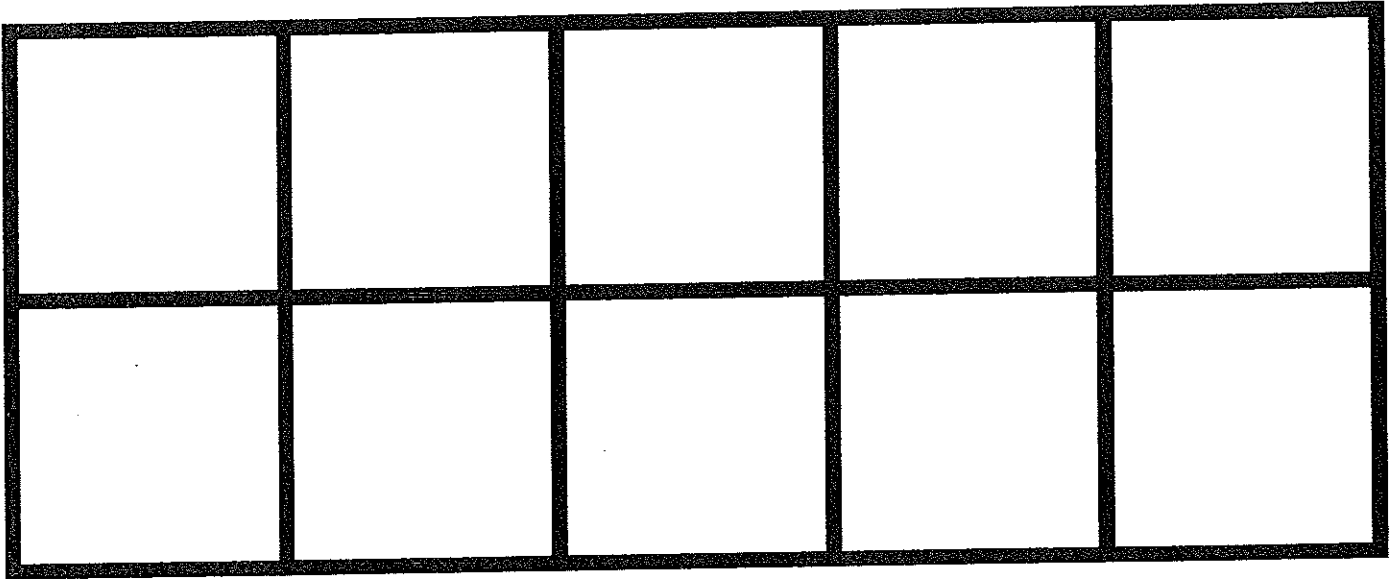
9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

# Ten Frames



# Circle

A circle's like a  
ball,

A circle's like a  
ball,

Round and round

It never stops,

A circle's like a  
ball.

# Rectangle

A rectangle has 4  
sides,

A rectangle has 4  
sides,

Two are long and  
two are short.

A rectangle has 4  
sides.