



# God Makes Things Grow

## Bible Verse

God makes things grow (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ understand that God helps them grow,  
 ■ explore ways that show they're getting bigger, and  
 ■ thank God for helping them grow.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

■ God makes people grow.

**Psalms**  
**65:9-13;**  
**104:14; 147:8;**  
**Matthew**  
**6:25-30**

God's care for the earth provides an image of healthy spirituality. In Psalm 1, the person who knows and loves God, who immerses him- or herself in the Word of God and turns from evil, is compared to a tree planted by streams of water. The sturdiness of an oak tree, the girth of a weeping willow, the height of a northern pine—a moment's reflection on these wonderful trees shows us what it means to "grow" in God.

God wants us to be people with roots sunk deep into him and his Word, able to withstand the strong winds of trouble that blow through life. We tend to forget that trees take time to grow. No giant oak got that big overnight. The key is to stay rooted in good soil, nourished by sun and rain.

In the same way, if we stay rooted in God, he will nourish us with his Word and Holy Spirit, and will keep us growing healthy, strong, and tall. Young children often associate growth only with physical change. As you continue to grow spiritually through this teaching time, pray that your students will understand that God wants them to grow spiritually as well.










### Prayer

- Read: 1 Samuel 2:26.
- Can you think of people in your life who have clearly grown in the Lord during the time that you've known them? How did you see them grow?
- What sorts of things cause us to grow in God? Can you think of times when you grew significantly? What happened during that time?
- Pray: God, sometimes I feel like I'm making so little progress! Help me remain eager to grow more and more in the knowledge of you. Help the children I teach learn to be just as excited about growing in you as they are about growing big.

### Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Growing by Leaps and Bounds</b> —Balance, hop, and walk on a tape “tightrope.”	Masking tape	
	<b>Option 2: Dressing Up and Down</b> —Try on different sizes of clothing and see how they’re growing.	Boxes of adult- and baby-sized clothing such as shirts, shoes, and hats	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>God Makes Things Grow</b> —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear how God makes things grow from Psalms 65:9-13; 104:14; 147:8; and Matthew 6:25-30.	Flashlight, paper cups, milk, hard-boiled egg, apple slices, cotton balls, paper sacks or envelopes, water	
	<b>“God Makes Things Grow” Song</b> —Sing a song about how God makes them grow.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Let’s Grow!</b> —Play a game where they help each other grow bigger and bigger.	Water	
	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Children patterns (pp. 50-51), scissors, tape, flashlight	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing a song about how God makes them grow.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Make unusual paper hands to show how they’re growing.	Pencil, marker, craft sticks, tape, paper, scissors	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Use their paper hands to act out a growing rhyme.	Paper hands from Bible Craft	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Growing Thank-Yous</b> —Say a prayer and have a snack.	Apple slices, napkins	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

# Arrival Activities

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Makes Things Grow” (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God makes things grow.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

**teacher tips**

Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.



## Option 1: Growing by Leaps and Bounds

**SUPPLIES:** 4-foot length of masking tape

Before class, tape a 4-foot length of masking tape to the floor.

As children arrive, invite them to hop from one end of the tape to the other. Then encourage them to balance, crawl, and walk forward and backward on the tape. Point out that when they were little, they couldn’t walk backward or hop, but now that they’ve grown, they can do lots of things. Remind children that ► God makes things grow. Tell children that today they’ll learn how God makes people grow so they can do lots of fun, exciting things.



## Option 2: Dressing Up and Down

**SUPPLIES:** boxes of adult- and baby-sized clothing such as shirts, shoes, and hats

Let children try on clothing of different sizes. In one box, provide a variety of adult dress-up clothes such as shirts, shoes, gloves, hats, and pants. In another box, place baby clothing and items such as bonnets, booties, sweaters, and blankets. Invite children to have fun trying on different clothes. As children play, ask questions such as “Why don’t the baby clothes fit?” and “Why do we need big clothes?” Explain that God helps them grow bigger and that they don’t stay small very long. Tell children that ► God makes things grow and God is helping them grow this very moment.



## Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



SING

Let's pick up all our things.  
 Let's pick up all our things.  
 Let's pick up all our things  
 And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.  
 Everyone here can help.  
 Everyone here can help.  
 Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.  
 Let's pick up all our things.  
 Let's pick up all our things.  
 It's time to stop our play.

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ►



tracks 3, 11

Say: **Who makes things grow? ► God makes things grow.**  
 How do we know that? The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 3.  
 Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible.** Using the CD, lead children in singing "God's Special Book" (track 3) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



SING

This is God's special book.  
 Yes, it's God's book you see!  
 I learn about all God has done  
 And his love for me!  
 (Repeat.)

**Bible!**



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **The Bible is God's special book. In the Bible, we can read all about how ► God makes things grow. God makes you grow and God makes me grow.**

Ask: • **What else does God make grow?** Pause as children respond.

Say: **It's important to learn about the Bible, because the Bible is God's special story. Let's sing a fun song all about the Bible!** Lead children in singing "The Bible Is God's Special Book" (track 11) with the CD. Play the song several times, if possible. Lyrics are on page 24.



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► **God makes things grow, and we can learn all about how God does that in the Bible. Let's learn more!**

## ■ Bible Story: God Makes Things Grow

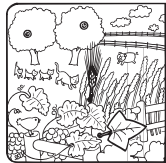
**SUPPLIES:** water, flashlight, cotton balls, apple slices, paper cups, milk, hard-boiled egg, paper sacks or envelopes



Before class, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without danger of pulling off the items or putting them into their mouths. In addition, fill the *little fish squirter* from Sensory Packet 3 with water. Set a flashlight and cotton balls behind the StoryBoard. Place thinly cut, fresh apple slices in the basket on Panel 3, and have extras to give the children.



### Panel 1

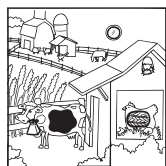


Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: **Today we'll learn that ►God makes things grow. We'll pretend we're farmers planting seeds. Let's stand up and rake with our pretend rakes.** Make raking motions. **Back and forth, back and forth. It's hard work to rake a field. Now we'll use our pretend shovels to dig holes to plant seeds.** Make digging motions. **Whew! This is hot work.** Wipe your forehead to show how hot it is.

**Let's plant our seeds. I'll give you some "seeds," but don't plant them yet.** Hand each child five or six cotton balls. When everyone has cotton, say: **When we count to three, toss your seeds in the air. Help me count. One...two...three! Toss your seeds!** Toss the cotton into the air. **Whee! Planting seeds is fun. But now we have to care for our seeds. If we care for them, ►God makes things grow. What do seeds need in order to grow? They need water!** Give each child a turn squeezing the *little fish squirter* and feeling the mist.

**God also makes sunshine to help things grow. Put your arms in the air like a big, round sun. Good! Oh, you're shining so bright, I need to cover my eyes!** Shade your eyes. **Sunshine helps make plants grow big and tall. I think our pretend garden is ready. We can pick the plants. Here's a bag to put your plants in.** Hand paper bags or envelopes to the children, and have them gather the cotton balls from the floor. **Bring your bags, and sit by the StoryBoard.** Have children hand you the bags. **You're good helpers! But who really makes things grow? Pause. God does! God makes good food grow to help people grow big and strong. Let's see what else grows.**

### Panel 2



Hold the StoryBoard on your lap so children see Panels 1 and 2. Say: **Let's shine the flashlight on things that grow.** Invite each child to shine the flashlight on an animal or plant picture in Panel 1 or 2. Encourage children to name what they see. Then help them say, "God makes [object] grow."

**Cows and chickens grow. They give us food to help us grow, too.** Hold up a hard-boiled egg.

Ask: • **What animal lays eggs?** (Chickens; I don't know.)



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.



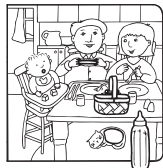
Say: **Chickens lay eggs for us to eat. Let's pass the egg to each other. Careful. Eggs break easily.** Be sure each child has a turn to hold the hard-boiled egg.

Ask: • **What do eggs feel like?** (They're cold; hard; they're white.)

Point to the cow. Say: **Cows give food to people, too. Cows give milk to drink. They give milk to make cheese and ice cream. Let's taste good, cold milk.** Hand each child a half-filled paper cup of milk to drink. **If you like milk, come ring the cowbell!** Pause for children to respond.

**God helps people grow by giving them good food. Let's see what the family on the StoryBoard is eating today!**

### Panel 3



Fold the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 3.

Ask: • **Who's at the dinner table?** (A mommy; a daddy; a baby; a cat.)

Say: **There's a mommy, a daddy, and a little baby. The people in this family are ready to eat. Let's help them say a prayer. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for good food. Amen.**

**Let's peek in the basket and see what's for dinner.** Invite children each to peek in the basket, and then give each child an apple slice to eat. **The family is having apples. What else is the daddy eating?** Point to the corn. **The daddy is eating corn. Yum. Rub your tummy to show how good corn tastes.** Pause. **We can touch the corn.** Let children feel the corn.

Ask: • **What color is the corn?** (Yellow.)

Say: **Babies are too little to eat apples or corn. Let's feed the baby pretend milk to help the baby grow.** Let children take turns "feeding" the baby with the *baby bottle* from Sensory Packet 1.

After everyone has had a turn, say: **You did a good job feeding the baby. Babies grow, little girls grow, and little boys grow. You're growing, too! Let's sing a song about how ►God makes things grow.**



### BIBLE POINT ►

## ■ "God Makes Things Grow" Song

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "God Makes Things Grow" (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses as you sing.



**Trees and bees both big and small** (*stand up high; then bend low*),  
**God's the one who makes them all.** (*Spread arms wide.*)  
**God makes things grow every day** (*squat down; then slowly rise up*)  
**And cares for them in lots of ways.** (*Place hands on heart.*)  
**God makes things grow.** (*Hold arms out at sides.*)  
**God makes things grow.** (*Raise arms higher.*)  
**God makes things grow** (*raise arms higher*)  
**Because he loves us so.** (*Place hands on heart.*)

### teacher tips

**Important:** Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children. Return the *baby bottle* and *little fish squirter* to the Learning Lab.

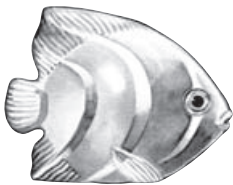
I am growing big and tall. (*Stand on tiptoe.*)  
 I'm bouncing up just like a ball! (*Jump in the air.*)  
 God helps us grow every day (*squat down; then slowly rise up*)  
 And cares for us in lots of ways. (*Place hands on heart.*)  
 God makes things grow. (*Hold arms out at sides.*)  
 God makes things grow. (*Raise arms higher.*)  
 God makes things grow (*raise arms higher*)  
 Because he loves us so. (*Place hands on heart.*)

Say: **God makes people grow. When people first start out in life, they're little babies. Let's see what that's like!**

## Bible Activities

### ■ Let's Grow!

**SUPPLIES:** *water*



Partially fill the *fish squirter* with water.

Say: **You boys and girls are getting so big! You used to be little babies, but God helped you grow! Let's pretend we're tiny, tiny babies. Everyone lie on your backs on the floor: Kick your feet and wiggle your arms like a newborn baby.** Pause while the children pretend to be new babies.

**You didn't stay tiny babies for long. ►God made you grow! Soon, you could crawl. Let's pretend to be crawling babies. But remember, if we're crawling babies, we still can't talk. So, you can make some baby noises while you crawl, but you're not ready to talk yet.** Pause while the children crawl around the room.

**And soon after you could crawl, ►God made you grow some more. Soon, you could walk! Let's pretend to be babies just learning to walk.** Show the children how to stand slowly and then take slow, careful steps. Encourage the children to join you. Pause while the children walk slowly around the room.

**And now look at you! You're even bigger, aren't you? ►God makes things grow! God makes babies and people grow!**

**We're going to play a pretend game with our *fish squirter*. We're going to pretend to grow bigger and bigger when our friend sprinkles us with water.**

Have each child squat very low to the ground. Walk to a child and spray water over the child's head so that just a little sprinkles down on him or her. Show that child how to "grow" by slowly standing all the way to tippy-toes. After that child has "grown," let him or her use the *fish squirter* to help another child grow. Make sure each child has a turn to grow.

Say: **It was fun to pretend to grow from little babies!**

Ask: • **In real life, who made you grow from a tiny baby to the big boy or girl you are now?** (God did; Mommy and Daddy.)

- **Who makes people grow?** (God does.)
- **Who makes *everything* grow?** (God does.)



**◀ BIBLE POINT**



**◀ BIBLE POINT**

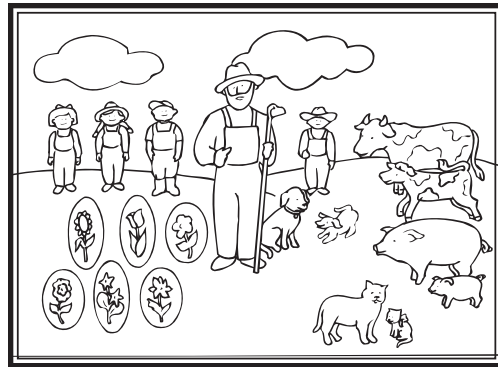


## BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶ ***God makes everything grow, including people!*** Now let's add people to our bulletin board and make it grow!

## ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** children patterns (pp. 50-51), scissors, flashlight, tape



Before class, photocopy the patterns of children from the end of this lesson. Be sure you have a boy pattern for each boy in class and a girl pattern for each girl. Cut out the patterns.

*Lead children to the bulletin board, and bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a flashlight.*

**Cuddles:** Hello, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Cuddles. Why do you have a flashlight?

**Cuddles:** I'm going to make things grow. If I give them lots of light, I can make things grow.

**Teacher:** Oh, Cuddles, I'm afraid a flashlight won't make anything grow. You see, only ▶ ***God makes things grow.***

**Cuddles:** Oh. *(Looks disappointed and hangs his head.)*

**Teacher:** But we can help God by taking care of plants, animals, and people, too. You can help us, Cuddles!

**Cuddles:** Oh, boy! What can I do? What can I do?

**Teacher:** We've been learning today that God makes people grow. We're going to add people to our bulletin board.

*Have Cuddles hand each boy a picture of a boy and each girl a picture of a girl. Help children tape their pictures to the bulletin board or wall. Each time children add a picture, help them repeat the Bible Point.*

**Teacher:** I'm happy that ▶ ***God makes things grow.*** Let's sing a song to thank God for making people grow, too!

*Place Cuddles out of sight.*

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## Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Makes Things Grow” (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” The lyrics and motions are on pages 44-45.



Say: ► **God makes things grow.** God loves us and cares for us. In fact, God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Then Jesus came back to life and went back to heaven. When we believe in Jesus, he'll be our forever friend and we can live with him someday in heaven. Let's clap our hands to let God know how happy we are that he sent Jesus! Lead children in clapping their hands for God.



**BIBLE POINT**

Say: **God loves us, and he helps us to grow. You're all growing right now. We can make special hands to show how we're growing.**

## Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** pencil, tape, craft sticks, paper, scissors, marker

Set out tape, craft sticks, paper, scissors, and a marker. Trace around each child's hand on paper, and then cut around the shape. (You don't need to cut out each shape exactly.) Write the child's name on the palm.

Help each child tape a paper hand to the end of a craft stick. As children work, make comments such as “Your hands are growing. They help you do lots of things babies can't do” and “I'm glad that God helps us grow bigger.” ► **God makes things grow.** When children have finished, give them time to walk around the room and use their paper hands to touch things that grow. Then say: **now let's use our paper hands to play a growing game.**



A quick way to trace and cut out paper handprints is to have children make “mitten hands” as you trace their fingers and thumbs.

## Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** paper hands from Bible Craft

Say: **From our toes to the tips of our heads, God makes us grow every day. Let's use our paper hands to show how God makes us grow.** Say the following rhyme and use the paper hands to touch the parts of the body underlined in the rhyme. Say the rhyme two times.

Touch my ears.  
Touch my nose.  
Touch my arm.  
God makes me grow.

Touch my head.  
Touch my toe.  
Touch my eye.  
God makes me grow.

Touch my cheek.  
Touch my elbow.  
Touch my feet.  
God makes me grow.

Say: **Now use your paper hands to blow God a kiss to thank him for helping us grow.** If there's time, repeat the rhyme. Then set the paper hands by the wall.



## Closing

### ■ Growing Thank-Yous

**SUPPLIES:** *apple slices, napkins*

Have children wash their hands. Then gather everyone at the snack table. Say: **We've been learning that ►God makes things grow and that he makes people grow, too. When something grows, it starts out small and then gets bigger. Let's whisper a small thank-you to God.** Lead children in whispering: **Thank you, God.**

**Now let's make our whispers grow. We'll say a big thank-you to God.** Have children say, "Thank you, God!" loudly. **That was fun! Even our thank-yous to God can grow. Let's say a prayer to thank God for helping us grow. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for making us grow every day. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Hand each child a couple of apple slices (thinly cut, to avoid a choking hazard) on a napkin. Encourage them to say, "My eyes grow," "My nose grows," or "My feet grow" each time they pick an apple slice to eat. Remind children to throw their napkins in the wastebasket when they've finished and to take home their paper hands.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ *Growing Rhyme*

Repeat the action rhyme children learned in the Bible Game. Let them use their paper hands to act out the motions.

Touch my ears.  
Touch my nose.  
Touch my arm.  
God makes me grow.

Touch my cheek.  
Touch my elbow.  
Touch my feet.  
God makes me grow.

Touch my head.  
Touch my toe.  
Touch my eye.  
God makes me grow.

### ■ *People Dough*

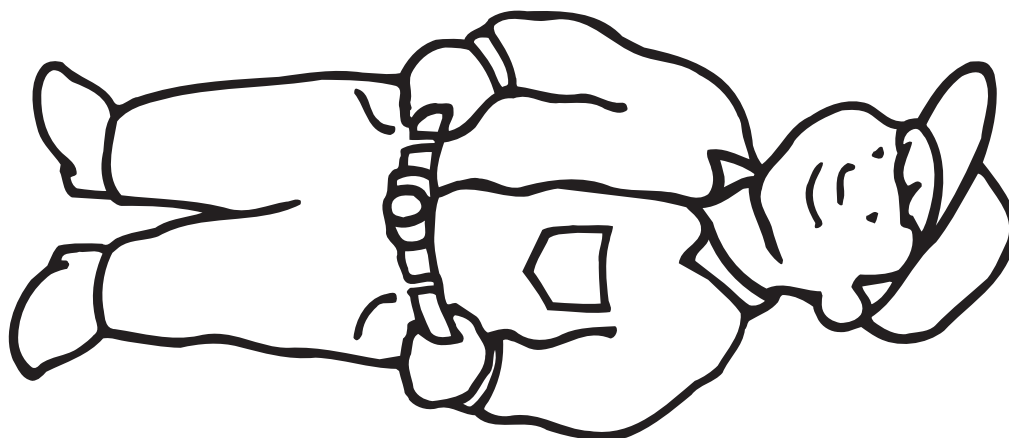
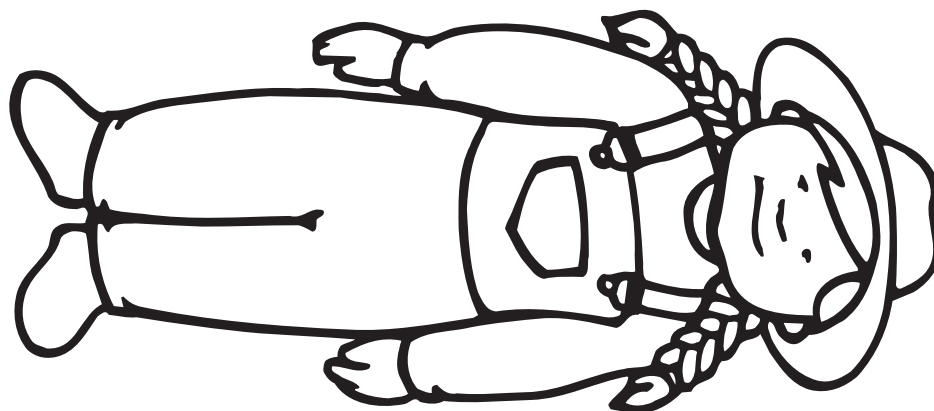
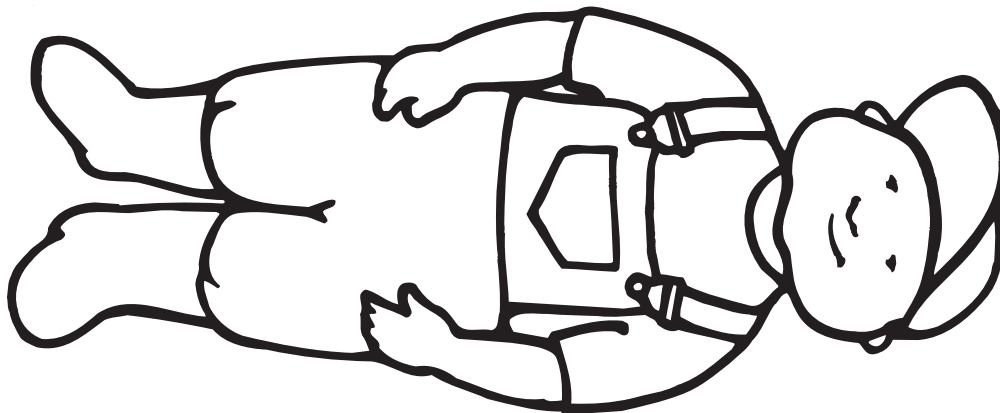
Before this activity, make a batch of edible modeling dough. Mix softened cream cheese with enough powdered sugar to make a firm dough. If the mixture needs thinning, add a few drops of milk. Knead the dough until it's smooth.

Hand each child a small piece of wax paper and a small lump of dough. Encourage children to make big and little people shapes before they gobble them down.



# Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



# Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

