Pre-Kindergarten Math Concepts

Basic math and number concepts utilized in a preschool classroom set the foundation for learning more advanced math concepts. Opportunities to practice these skills will increase a student's confidence and comfort in math.

The skills we have identified are very important for preschoolers to know BEFORE they enter kindergarten. These basic skills are called concepts, and children need to learn them so that they can understand the more complicated parts of math and other school subjects.

1. Numeral Identification- Once a child is able to recognize the 10 numerals (0-9) and know each numeral's name; he can develop an understanding of the amount each numeral represents.
2. Counting- When first learning to count, a child counts by rote memorization. This means he will likely be able to say the names of the numbers from 1-10 simply because he has memorized the order of the words, "one, two, three....ten." However, he likely does not yet understand that 5 is 2 more than 3, for example.
3. One-to-One correspondence- when counting, the concept of "one-to-one correspondence" is the understanding that each object being counted represents "one more." Before a child understands one-to-one correspondence, he will count by rote memorization. When asked to count a small group of objects, he will likely count quickly through the numbers he has memorized and randomly touch the objects being counted instead of touching and counting and touching each object just once.
4. Counting On- "Counting on" allows a child to continue counting objects added to a previously counted group without recounting the entire group.
5. Pattern recognition and creation- The ability to recognize, identify and create patterns not only supports learning in math but it also contributes to broader social development. Through understanding of patterns, children are able to make predictions about what comes next which will help a child maneuver more confidently in his environment.
6. Classifying and Sorting- These activities provide children with opportunities to develop logical reasoning skills as well as demonstrate divergent (independent) thinking.

Importance of Hands-on learning

Math learning is most exciting for children when hands-on manipulatives are incorporated. Manipulatives give children tangible representations of the otherwise abstract concepts related to number and counting.

Name _____ Date _____

Numbers I Know

I know my age: _____

I know my birthday: _____

I know my address: _____

I know my phone number: _____

I know the number of letters in my first name: _____

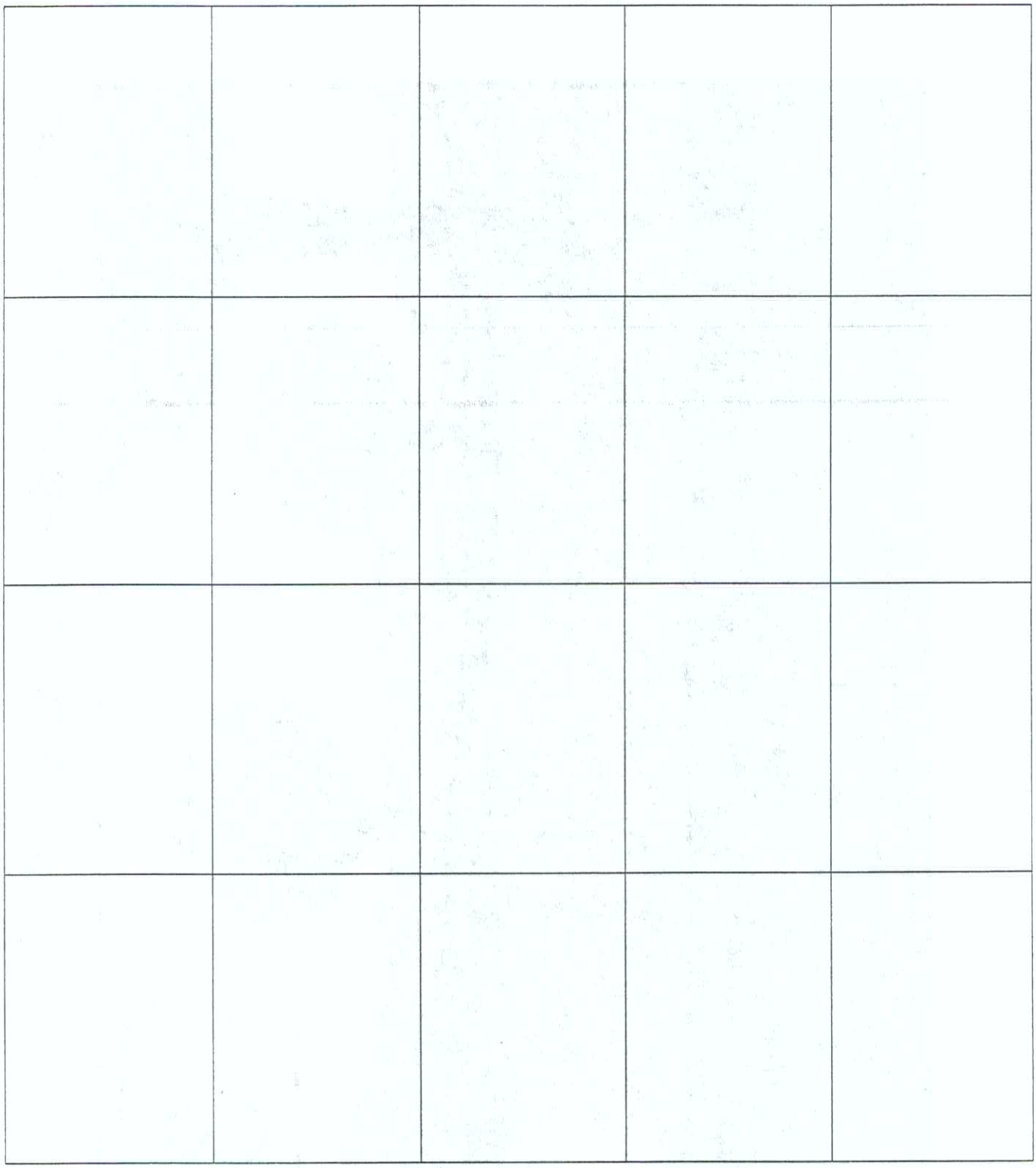
I know the number of letters in my last name: _____

Other numbers I know: _____

_____

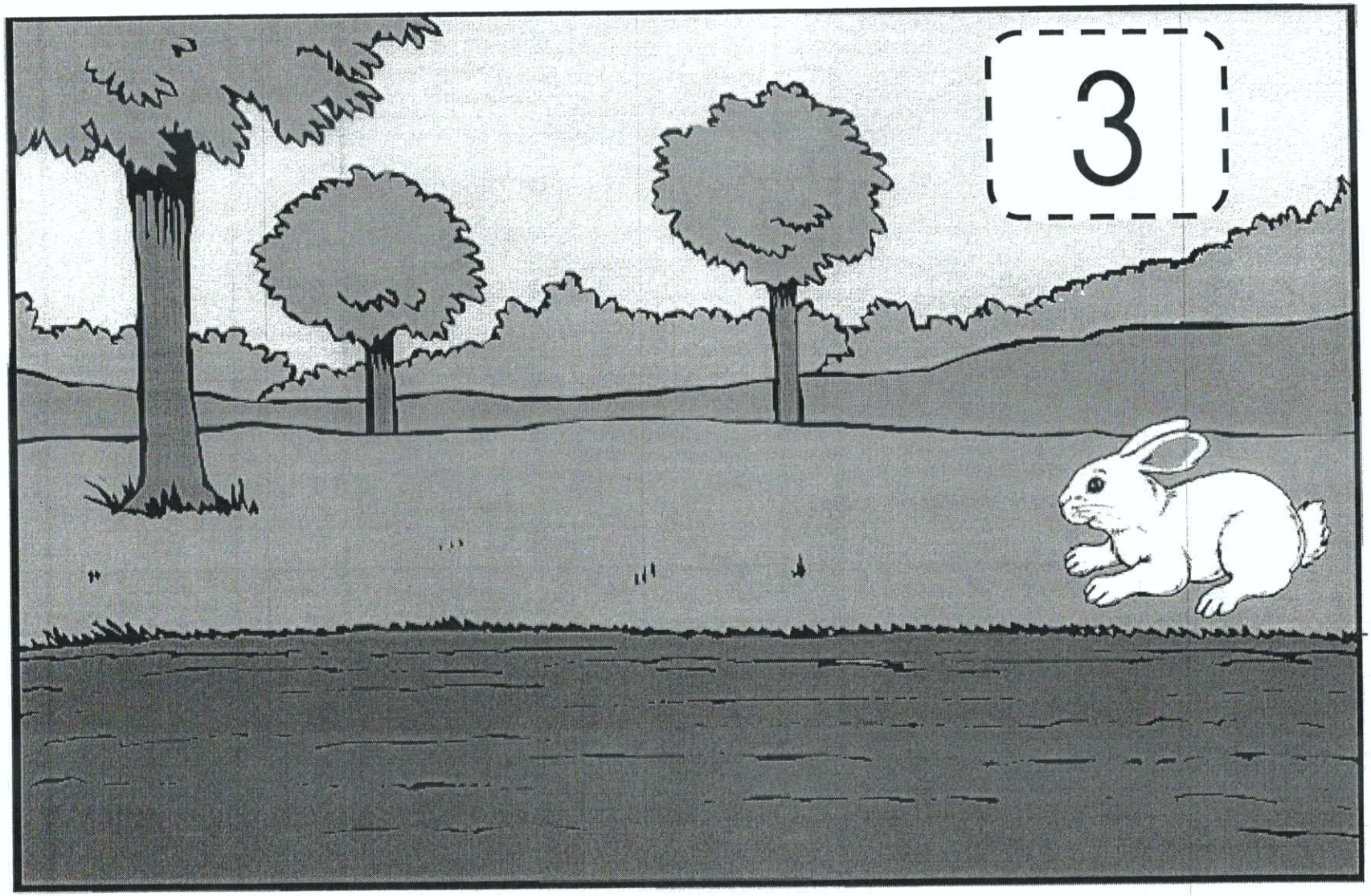
_____

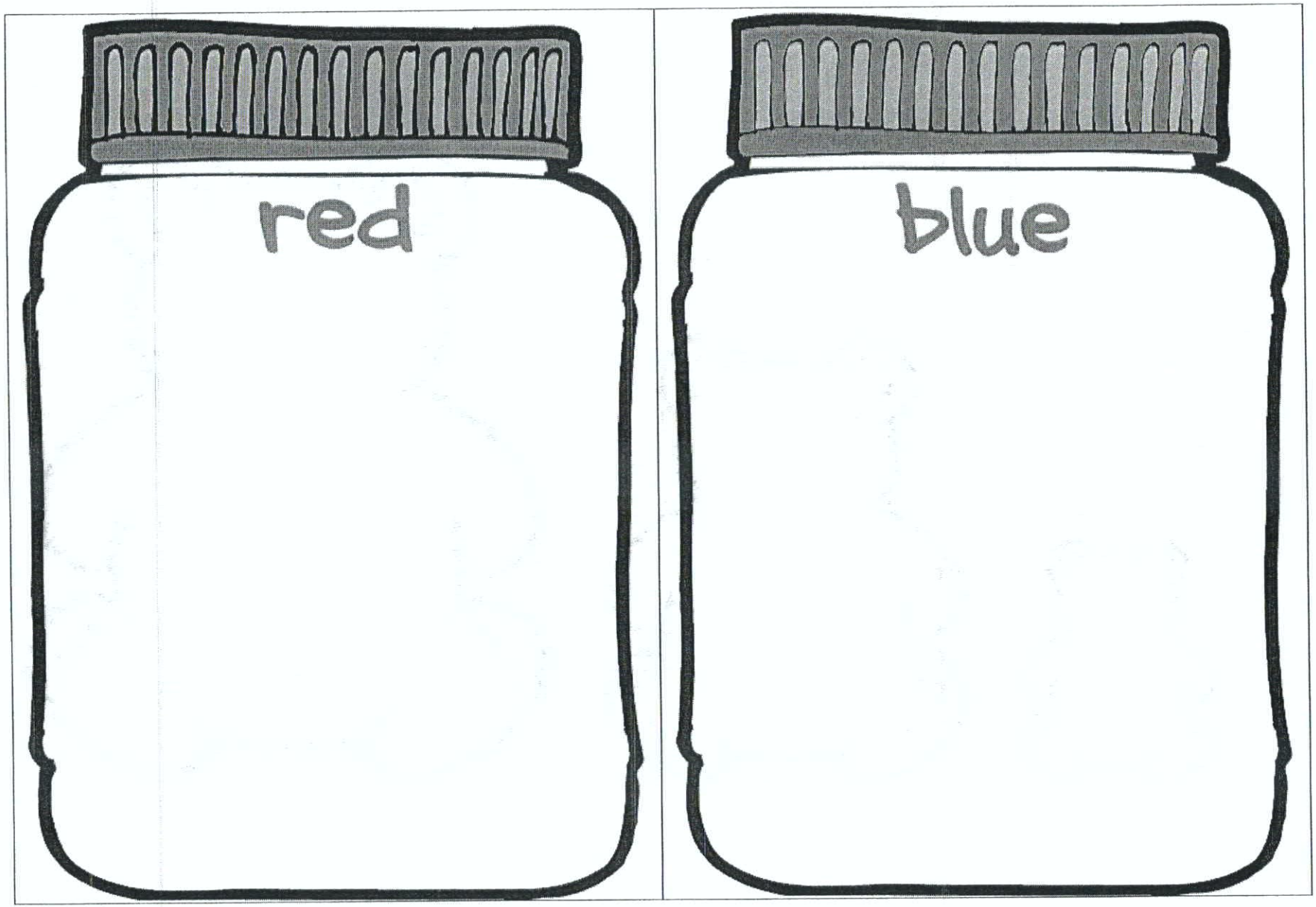
_____



Math: One to One Correspondence

Plant 3 carrots for the rabbit to eat.





Bear Family