A SPARKATLAS PACK FOR BUSY LITTLE HANDS

Little Hands

Snip paper grass, tear a paper leaf, follow dot trails and sort tiny treasures with a pinch.



INSIDE THIS PACK

02 Grown-up guide: one minute to read
03 Snip strips: grass, waves and zigzags
04 Tear-and-stick leaf
05 Dot trails: crayon from dot to dot
06 Pinch and sort: a treasure mat

YOU'LL NEED

crayons or coloured pencils

child-safe scissors, glue stick, scrap paper

small treasures from outside: pebbles, leaves, cones

TIME

About 10 minutes a page

Our making day

Date _____ What we made _____

Today's weather · Circle one ◯ sunny ◯ cloudy ◯ rainy ◯ windy

AGES Sprout 2–3 Seedling 3–5 Sapling 5–7 Each activity page shows its band.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Snipping, tearing and pinching build the small hand muscles children later use to hold a pencil, do up a button and pour their own water. Real materials make the practice feel like play, not drills.

Before the Snipping Starts

A one-minute read for grown-ups.

How to use it (about 10 minutes a page)

1. **Warm up the hands.**
   Squeeze a sponge, roll a ball of play dough or scrunch up scrap paper.
2. **Show, then step back.**
   Do one snip or one tear yourself, then let your child try it their way.
3. **Wonky is fine.**
   Crooked cuts and big torn bits still count. The hands are learning either way.
4. **Stop while it's fun.**
   One page is plenty. Come back another day.

Three ways to play

Sprout 2–3

Tear paper for the leaf, join the straight dots and drop big treasures into the circles.

Seedling 3–5

Snip the grass and the straight strip, follow the dot hills and count each group.

Sapling 5–7

Cut the waves and zigzags, join 1 to 12 and invent their own dot trail and sorting group.

Little safety notes

Use child-safe scissors and stay close while they cut. Pebbles, seeds and acorns can be a choking risk for children under 3, so Sprouts sort bigger things like pinecones and big leaves. Wash hands after handling things from outside.

Printing tips

Page 1 is the cover. To save ink, print pages 2 to 6 only. Every page works in black and white, on Letter or A4. Thicker paper is easier to cut.

Wonder out loud together

- What can your hands do that your feet can't?
- Which tears more easily, a leaf or a page? Why?
- What could you make with one long paper strip?
- How do birds build nests without any hands?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Most children manage single snips before they can cut along a line, so the strips on page 3 go from easiest to hardest. Start wherever your child is.

Snip the Strips

Cut from the scissors to the picture at the end.

Grown-up: cut the strips apart on the solid lines. Child: snip along the dashed lines.

1 Little snips: make grass for the snail



2 A straight path to the tree



3 A wavy river to the bird



4 Zigzag hills to the pinecone



5 Your turn: draw a cutting line, then cut it



FOR GROWN-UPS

Single snips come first, then long lines, then curves and corners. Thumb on top, like a thumbs-up, while the other hand turns the paper.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

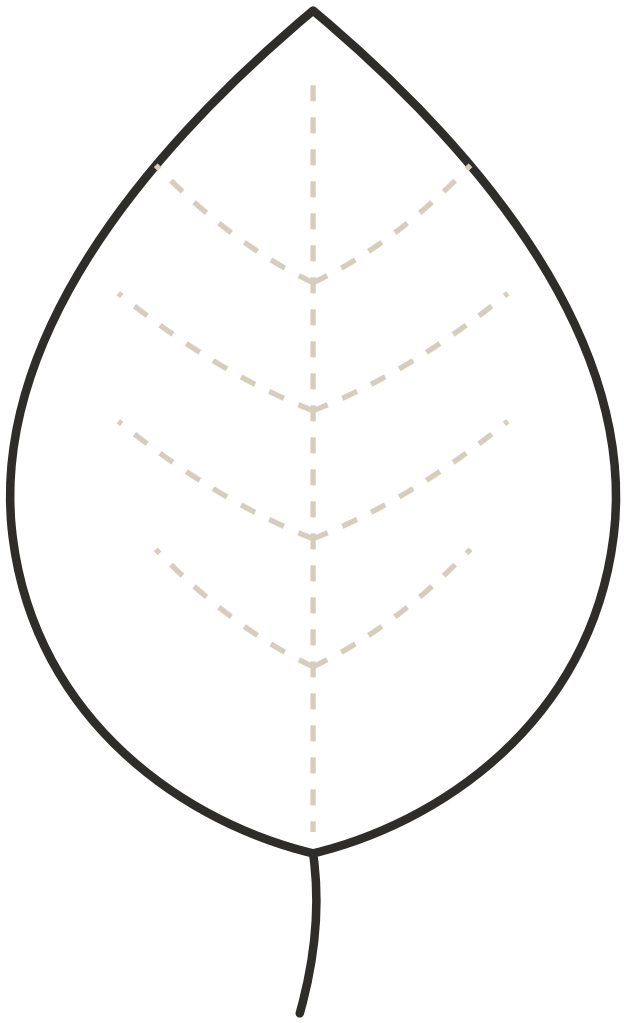
Easier: Hold the strip steady and snip one grass blade at a time.

Stretch: Glue the grass on paper and cut a wavy cloud to go above it.

Tear-and-Stick Leaf

Fill the leaf with little bits of torn paper.

Tear bits of paper, then glue them inside the lines.



1.  Tear small bits

2.  Dab glue in the leaf

3.  Press each bit down

Bonus: find a real leaf and tape it here.

My leaf is the colour of _____

FOR GROWN-UPS

Tearing uses both hands at once, one holding and one pulling, with small pinching fingers. Old drawings, paper bags and scrap paper all work.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Tear a few big pieces together and stick them anywhere in the leaf.
Stretch: Sort the bits by colour first, then make a fall leaf with three colours.

Dot Trails

Keep your crayon on the paper from start to end.

Start on the dot with the ring. Go from dot to dot without lifting your crayon.

A straight hop to the tree



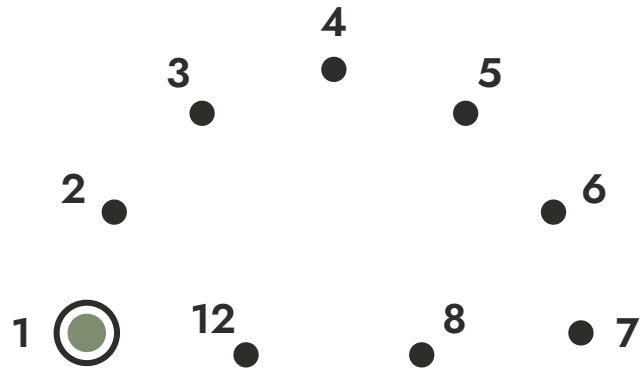
Over the hills to a leaf



A wavy flight to the flower



Join 1 to 12, then back to 1.



Make your own trail: draw dots for someone to join.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Following dots trains the eyes and the hand to work together, the same teamwork used later for writing. A short, chunky crayon makes small fingers grip it well.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Join only the straight row, or trace each dot with a finger first.

Stretch: Go slowly along the waves, then hide a dot trail in your own picture.

Pinch and Sort

A sorting mat for the treasures you find.

Pick up each treasure with a pinch (thumb and pointer finger) or a clothes peg. Drop it in its circle.



Pebbles

How many? ☐



Leaves

How many? ☐



Cones and seeds



My own group: _____

Which group has the most? _____

FOR GROWN-UPS

The pinch, thumb and pointer finger together, builds toward the grip children later use for a pencil. Sorting and counting come along for free.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Use only big things, like pinecones and big leaves, and sort into two groups.

Stretch: Use a clothes peg or tongs, then line each group up from smallest to biggest.